

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGES.

At Shanghai, on the 12th of May, by H. Danish M. Consul, and at the Union Church by the Rev. Lic. Hackmann, CARL EMIL LINDBERG, R.D.N., to LOUISE ARLMANN, of Kallundborg, Denmark.

At Shanghai, on the 15th of May, 1897, at the Church of St. Joseph, French Concession, by the Rev. Father Rouxel, HILDEBRANDO J. N. LOPEZ, to ALMIRA, daughter of Rufino and Josephina MARTENS.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 23rd April arrived, per M. M. steamer *Caledonien*, on the 21st May (28 days); and the English mail of the 30th April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, on the 28th May (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

In the report of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Co., it is stated that the Hongkong Branch, which for many years showed unsatisfactory results, is now improving.

Mr. Colin M. Ford, who was appointed Consul at Shanghai, has been transferred to Swatow, and Mr. R. W. Mansfield is appointed Consul and Assistant Judge at Shanghai.

It is notified that on the 1st July next the British Protectorate of Sarawak will enter the Postal Union and from that date rates of postage from Hongkong will be the same as to other countries of the Union.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) hear with pleasure that Baron von Heyking, the German Minister at Peking, has sent by wire his hearty congratulations to the German residents at Shanghai who signed the protest against the recent article in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* on the Wheelbarrow question.

Mr. Byron Brenan, H.B.M. Consul at Canton, who is still continuing his inquiry into the state of trade in the Far East for the home Government, is now in Formosa.

The instalment of the promoters' capital in the Imperial Bank of China is to be paid on the 27th instant, on which day the Bank will begin business at Shanghai.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The appointments of Mr. William John Archer to be Her Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Bangkok, and Mr. Walter Ralph Durie Beckett to be Her Majesty's Consul for the Consular District of Chiengmai are notified.

A severe gale which swept the Ningpo sea-coast and neighbouring archipelago of Chusan on the 6th instant completely destroyed over a hundred deep-sea fishing smacks, and as each boat contained on an average five persons, at least 500 fishermen were drowned in the disaster.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A San Francisco telegram of the 11th May published in the *Kobe Chronicle* states that the Hawaiian Government contemplates submitting to the arbitration of a European Power the claims of Japan in regard to the recent refusal of the Hawaiian authorities to permit the landing of a large number of Japanese emigrants.

It is reported in certain native official circles in Tientsin that in order to make amends for his rejection by Germany as Minister, the Tsungli Yamèn will recommend to the Throne that Taotai Huang Chün-hsien be appointed substantive Taotai of Chinkiang, vice Lü Hai-huan, lately appointed to the post abroad.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The Straits Government, we learn from the *Free Press*, has withdrawn the Immigrants Depot Bill, which proposed to levy a tax of a dollar a head on all immigrants to build examination and detention depôts. Detention depôts are not deemed absolutely necessary at present, and funds for examination depôts will be got from raising the fee on contracts.

At the offices of the London Chamber of Commerce an exhibition was to be opened on the 26th April of samples of foreign goods which have displaced or are displacing similar British goods in South Australia, Newfoundland, British Honduras, Gambia, and Hongkong. These samples have been sent home as a result of Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of November, 1895.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) understand that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. have abandoned the idea of appealing to the Privy Council against the decision of the Supreme Court at Shanghai in the *Onwo-Newchwang* collision case, which found both vessels to blame. We also understand that, with one exception up to the present, the life claims arising out of the catastrophe have been amicably settled.

The *Nagasaki Shipping List* of the 15th May says:—The *Yiksang* was taken out of dock yesterday morning to have her boiler lifted out, after which she will be taken on the slip for repairs to her hull, etc. The keel of the vessel was driven up about two feet through her bottom, and the boilers and engines were consequently driven entirely out of their proper bearings. She cannot be repaired inside of a month.

Sir William Cleaver Robinson, whose death is reported, was Private Secretary to his brother Sir Hercules Robinson in 1859-60, when the latter was Governor of Hongkong. He was afterwards appointed a Governor and administered various colonies, including the Straits Settlements in 1877-79. His last appointment was as Governor of Western Australia.

Consul Gardner in his Amoy trade report, says:—"It is a noticeable feature of the trade in cutlery at this port that native razors in large quantities are exported from this to the Straits Settlements, the wholesale price being about 7s. 8d. per 100. As all children and grown-up men have their heads shaved, the consumption of razors by Chinese is very great." 7s. 8d. per 100 makes the razors less than a penny each, a price at which European makers can hardly hope to compete.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing under date of the 13th May, says:—"I suppose we ought to chronicle under the heading of court news the fact that H.E. Sir Claude Macdonald arrived here to-day; it is understood he will make a stay of three days before returning to Peking. It is interesting to observe the pleasure and commendation with which His Excellency's circular tour has been noted by the southern Press; but few of his eulogists have any notion of the fearful arrears of routine work awaiting the Minister in the capital; they are enough to intimidate the hardiest cormorant for work, and would probably deter all but the most resolute of Ministers from ever doing such a thing again.

The Philippine rebellion may now be regarded as at an end. Cavite province has been completely reconquered and the rebels still under arms have retired to the mountains. On the 17th May, the birthday of the King of Spain, a proclamation was issued by the Governor-General pardoning all persons in custody (with a few exceptions), against whom prosecutions were pending in connection with the rebellion, and over six hundred were released on that date. The exceptions are the leaders of the rebellion, soldiers who have made attempts on the lives of their officers, officers who have seduced or endeavoured to seduce the troops to rebel, and certain civil officials. In all these cases a reduction of the penalty is granted.

An interesting case of habeas corpus has occupied the attention of the Supreme Court of Hongkong. Four Chinamen who had been deported from Selangor were on their arrival in this colony arrested and held for deportation under a warrant issued by the Governor of Hongkong. They thereupon applied for a writ of habeas corpus and Mr. Francis, Q.C., who appeared for them, argued that they had been guilty of no offence in this colony and therefore could not be deported, and on various technical grounds he urged that the warrant was bad. The Court held that the deportation of the men from Selangor was sufficient ground for their deportation from this colony and overruled the other points raised by Mr. Francis. The release of the men was accordingly refused. Under the Ordinance they were entitled to select for themselves the port to which they would go and they left for Canton on the evening of the day on which the case was decided.

THE NAVY AND THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

In the official correspondence which has been published Vice-Admiral Sir ALEXANDER BULLER details the arrangements he has made for the Diamond Jubilee Celebration in this Colony. "If the exigencies of the service permit of it," the gallant Admiral writes, "I propose that Her Majesty's ships *Undaunted*, *Humber*, *Rattler*, and *Phoenix* shall be present in Hongkong on the 22nd June, 1897, to assist in the celebration of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign." &c. This long array of noble vessels will, subject to the exigencies of the service, dot the spacious anchorage: a belted cruiser, which is detained here, we believe, through the sickness of a large portion of her crew, a storeship, a small gunboat, part of whose slender crew is absent in the *Tweed*, and a sloop. This is the mighty force the Vice-Admiral deems sufficient to worthily represent the first line of defence at the review to be held in the Colony first acquired during the long and glorious reign it is proposed to celebrate with all the *éclat* possible. The Colony and the Vice-Admiral differ materially. His Excellency Sir A. BULLER doubtless proposes to divide his ships among the northern ports, where the heat will be less oppressive, and each British community in the Far East may have some naval assistance in honouring the Jubilee. But we cannot admit that the treaty ports of either China or Japan have the same claim as this British colony to the presence of the fleet on a great national occasion like that of the 22nd proximo! Even supposing, for the sake of argument, that they had some claim to support in this matter, can it be contended that both the flagships should necessarily be absent? The exigencies of the service do not demand their presence north, and one of them, at any rate, might have been sent here for the two days' celebration.

The gallant Admiral makes a great parade of the vessels he has selected to do special honour to his sovereign, but we wonder why, when at such pains to give prominence to the storeship, he did not also mention the *Victor Emanuel* and the *Tamar*. The former does at least carry a considerable crew. The fact that the hulks cannot, as the Chinese would say, walk doubtless restrained him. But of this we feel very confident, that the Commodore's ancient but roomy old receiving ship will, as was the case in 1887, take a worthy part in the celebration. Against the decision of Admiral BULLER there is, of course, no appeal, but that is no reason why it should be accepted without remonstrance. Whether the movements of the squadron are regulated by the Admiral in command or subject to orders from the Admiralty matters little; the mistake is the same, by whom or from whence originated. The practical desertion of this Colony by Her Majesty's Fleet on the reddest of all red letter days in Queen VICTORIA's unexampled reign will cause great disappointment amongst the Anglo-Saxon community.

The Foochow mint having imported into Shanghai a large quantity of silver dollars and fractional coinage, Liu Taotai of Shanghai has issued a proclamation notifying the masses of the proposed circulation of the new dollars and warning money changers from charging a discount on them when exchanged for copper cash or subsidiary coins, "as the silver used in minting these dollars is of the best sycee silver and up to full weight."—*N. C. Daily News*.

TAIPINGSHAN AND THE PROPERTY MARKET.

The fact of the Taipingshan property hanging over the market would seem to have led to a combination amongst land jobbers and speculators to refrain from buying at the present time either Government or private land, with a view to knocking down prices, forcing the hands of the Government, and ultimately being able to obtain the valuable resumed area for a merely nominal consideration. Most of the privately owned property that has been offered for sale by auction within the last few months has been bought in, the highest offers received not reaching the reserve, and it was a foregone conclusion that in face of the combination that has been formed the Taipingshan lots that were put up for sale the other day would not be disposed of. It is to be hoped, however, that the Government will not allow itself to be frightened or cajoled into sacrificing public property for the enrichment of private individuals. We note that the *Hongkong Telegraph* accuses the Government of ignorance of "the simplest elements of business" because it put up the Taipingshan lots at "absolutely prohibitive prices," the said absolutely prohibitive prices being simply the cost of the land to the Government plus the cost of the improvements that have been effected. As the price paid for the resumption was extravagant it is possible the Government may not be able to recoup itself in full for the expenditure, but we fail to see that it can be accused of want of business knowledge for trying to do so. It is the interests of the public that the Government has to consider, not the interests of the land jobber. It is quite a mistake to suppose that selling public land at low prices leads to low rents, for as soon as the land has passed into the hands of a private owner the latter naturally tries to make all he can out of it, irrespective of what it cost him. Some time ago a piece of land purchased from the Government changed hands again the next day at a profit of over fifty per cent. and the second purchaser, when negotiations for a further transfer were entered upon asked a price that would have yielded him a profit of over a hundred per cent. How, then, would the prospective tenants profit by the fact of the land having originally been obtained from the Government at a low rate, seeing that the rents would be calculated to yield a profit on the value of the land as appraised by the actual owner? In the same way, how would the public be benefitted by the Taipingshan lots being disposed of by the Government at prices which would allow of the purchasers reselling them for double what they gave for them? The best policy for the Government will be to hold the land until it receives *bona fide* applications for it and then sell it in lots to suit the prospective purchasers. The lots put up the other day had not been applied for and they were put up in sizes suitable only for the erection of single houses. Probably the land would be in better demand if offered in lots that would permit of the erection of rows of houses by the purchasers, as this would mean economy in building and a more profitable investment. But it would seem in any case more expedient to hold the land until it is applied for and to let the land jobbers understand at the outset

that they will not be allowed to bleed the public too severely. If it betrays ignorance of the simplest elements of business to ask cost price for the land we trust the Government will at least not let it go for very much below its real value.

CROWN RENTS.

In connection with the recent attempt to dispose of a number of the Taipingshan lots it has been objected that the Crown rent mentioned in the conditions of sale was excessive. On many of the most valuable lots in the colony, which were sold years ago, the Crown rent payable is merely nominal, a state of affairs which is no doubt appreciated by the owners, but whether it is equally to the advantage of the colony is quite another question. For our own part we hold that if the Crown lands had been properly administered the revenue from that source ought to have been sufficient to cover practically the whole public expenditure, in which case the stamp tax, light dues, and other taxes in restraint of trade would have been unnecessary, and the cost of government would have been equitably distributed over the entire community. Some years ago the Government arrived at the conclusion that it had been parting with the public estate on too easy terms and since then the policy of charging higher Crown rents has been adopted. The amount in the case of the Taipingshan lots was fixed in pursuance of that policy. The policy may be a debatable one, but if so it should be debated on grounds of principle and not be made a stalking horse for the expression of private resentment against the official to whom the duty of carrying out the policy happened to fall. In his report to the Secretary of State in 1889 on the conditions and prospects of Hongkong Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, under the heading of "Land Sales Receipts," pointed out that a comparison between the years 1887 and 1888 showed an advance in the aggregate of rents which was proportionately somewhat larger than that in premiums. This, he explained, was due to a change effected in the latter year by which the rent fixed for land to be leased was made to bear a somewhat larger proportion than formerly to the upset price at which leases were offered for competition by auction. "In the belief," His Excellency went on to say, "that we had been unduly sacrificing the future to the present by obtaining in premiums so large a share of the proceeds, I had hoped to carry this change still further; but I was induced to be content at first with a short step in the desired direction, partly by the consideration that we are at present burthened with a specially heavy charge for defence and other permanent works, and partly because the experience of my advisers suggested a doubt whether there would not be a loss in premiums out of proportion to the increase of rents." His Excellency went on to refer to the financial difficulties which have arisen elsewhere from the reckless sale of the Crown lands and the use of the proceeds as ordinary revenue, and, he continued, "bearing in mind the precarious nature of some important items of our present receipts, I cannot but think that it would be worth while, even at some sacrifice of present advantage, to apportion a larger share of the proceeds to permanent income." Are we now to go back on that policy, and, if so, to what extent? In the earlier days of the colony, and even up to comparatively recent times, large lots of prospectively valuable land

were disposed of at small premiums and merely nominal Crown rents and were held by the owners for a rise, the covenant as to building upon the lots being practically waived and the covenant itself being extremely liberal in the amount of expenditure it required. Are we to revert to that state of affairs, under which the public estate was exploited for the benefit of a few individuals, or, if we are not to go the whole length, are we to retrace any portion of the way? The increased Crown rents are certainly unpopular amongst property owners and dealers in land, but it does not follow that they are on that ground to be condemned, for charges of all kinds are unpopular amongst those who have to pay them. It is not the interests of property owners only that have to be considered, but the interests of the whole colony. The total revenue from leased lands last year was only \$217,282, which is a good deal less than the amount derived from such a doubtful source as the opium monopoly, whereas the land revenue ought to be the principal, as it is the safest, source of revenue. Seeing that the remaining Crown land is steadily passing into the hands of private individuals and that the income from premiums on land sales must in course of time come to an end, we trust that in the permanent interests of the colony the Government will continue to pursue the policy of imposing a substantial Crown rent on all land sold.

THE CHINA TEA TRADE.

It is greatly to be feared that the foreign tea trade of China is virtually a thing of the past. As was predicted in these columns, year after year, as the export tables from Calcutta and Ceylon showed an ever increasing development of the crops in Assam and the Spice Island, the time was approaching when the taxation in China would prove to be the destruction of the trade. These warnings all passed unheeded: the Chinese pursued, with undisturbed equanimity, their fatuous policy of killing the goose that laid the golden eggs; and could not even be diverted from that fatal course when it was clearly evident that the final extinction of the English demand was imminent. A fatality seems to hang over this valuable trade in the Central Kingdom. Not only have the high officials shown utter indifference to its gradual decay: even the sagacious and clear-headed Inspector-General of Maritime Customs, parting for once with his accustomed prescience and prudence, only preached improvement of cultivation and preparation instead of strenuously advocating a large reduction in the burdens laid upon it. The result is seen now in the almost total cessation of inquiry for the British markets. The total export of tea from China direct to Great Britain in 1896 was only 219,409 piculs as compared with one million piculs in 1885. This season the production of Hankow and Kiukiang teas is much heavier than last year and it is estimated the first crop alone will be about 55,000,000 lbs. Ordinarily the decline in the British demand has been made up to a considerable extent by the increase in the Russian demand, but it is stated that Russia is now over-weighted with a heavy stock and will not be able to take more than half the above quantity, leaving 27,500,000 lbs. to be shipped to England and America, against 18,500,000 lbs. exported thither last year. Seeing that this is an increase of some ten million pounds, it is obvious that prices will rule at very unremunerative rates. Yet we presume

there will be no reduction in the taxation that crushes the life out of this industry. In some notes on the tea trade of Amoy for last year supplied to the British Consul at that port for incorporation in his annual report Mr. FRANK CASS gives some interesting details of the duties imposed on tea. He says that the crop of Amoy Oolongs in 1896 amounted to 1,200,000 lbs., a shortage of 55 per cent. on the previous year, and adds that "an equally marked decline is expected in 1897, after which the article will probably cease to appear as an item in our trade returns, as the tea districts are being rapidly thrown out of cultivation, and most of them are irrevocably ruined." Mr. Cass rightly says the reason is not far to seek. The entire crop realised \$136,000, while the lekin paid amounted to \$20,000 and the export duty to \$35,000, or a total of \$55,000, considerably more than one-third of the value of the tea. The Japanese Government, with characteristic foresight, last year reduced the export duty on tea in Formosa to \$1.12 per picul as compared with \$5.82 per picul imposed under the Chinese régime. This example will, of course, be quite lost on the Chinese Government, who never seem to learn anything either by the teachings of experience or by the successes of others until it is too late to profit by them. The shadow of this great loss has been impending for at least two decades, and there is literally no excuse for the crass folly which has permitted this valuable trade to dwindle to a mere nothing. The production of Amoy tea in the season 1876-77 was 27,200,000 lbs., and in 1896-97, twenty years later, this had fallen to 3,600,000 lbs. We entirely agree with Mr. Cass in the opinion he expresses—which he adds is that of the very highest experts—that all the machinery in the world will not now save the China tea trade unless a complete amelioration of taxation accompanies its introduction. And, as we have remarked before, it seems as vain to expect the Chinese mandarin to relinquish exactions on trade as for the Ethiopian to change his skin.

STRAITS DEPORTEES IN HONGKONG.

The proceedings in the habeas corpus case tried on the 20th May seem to indicate the desirability of passing a short Ordinance to remove all doubt as to the legality of at once sending out of the colony any persons who may arrive here as deportees from the Straits Settlements and Federated States. In the case in question four men who had been deported from Selangor arrived in Hongkong and were at once placed under arrest and held in custody for deportation from this colony. Thereupon a writ of habeas corpus was taken out and their counsel, Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., applied for their discharge, one of the grounds of his application being that they had committed no offence in this colony. The Court dismissed the application and the men left the same evening for Canton. It is possible, however, that the same question may be raised in a different form in future cases, and hence the desirability of removing all doubt in the matter. Under the law as it stands persons sentenced to deportation are entitled to remain in the colony for one month after the date of the order, but they may be detained in custody during that period, as they naturally would be if they elected to remain. But there is no reason why this colony should be burdened with the detention of Straits deportees any longer than is necessary to place them on the first vessel

leaving for their ultimate destination. Their cases having already been duly dealt with by a British Government or the Government of a state enjoying British protection there can be no reason for according them the delay provided by law for persons deported from this colony. But there is a more serious reason calling for legislative action in the matter. The Chief Justice in his judgment said that the Court could inquire into the grounds of the order of deportation and decide whether they were such as could sustain the order. In the case in question His Lordship held that the fact of the men having been deported from Selangor was a sufficient ground for the order of deportation from this colony. But, with that judgment on record, it may be argued in the next case that, if it is competent for the Court to inquire into the grounds of deportation from this colony, the person in custody is entitled to ask the Court to go to the root of the matter and inquire into the sufficiency or legality of the grounds upon which he was deported from the Straits. In that way a Straits deportee with a long enough purse might involve the Hongkong Government in a tedious law suit and ultimately succeed in foisting his undesirable presence upon this colony for as long as he chose to remain. It would be better therefore if it were clearly provided by law that persons arriving in this colony upon their deportation from the Straits or the Federated States shall not be entitled to remain here longer than is necessary to enable them to take passage to their ultimate destination, that they shall be detained in custody while here, and that no order by the Hongkong Government shall be necessary for their deportation from this colony, the order of the Straits Government being held sufficient authority for moving them on. A good many deportees from the Straits arrive here *en route* to China and now that the idea that they may be able to establish a legal right to remain in this colony has been suggested to them they may possibly make further attempts to carry the idea into effect, taking advantage of the points suggested by the judgment given by the Chief Justice in the case tried on the 20th May.

CHANGES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Now that the Philippine rebellion has been suppressed speculation naturally turns on what changes are likely to result from the rising. In the first place the country will have to support a much larger European garrison than formerly. When the rebellion broke out there were only about fifteen hundred Spanish troops in the islands, while the native army numbered about eleven or twelve thousand. The loyalty of the latter probably saved the islands for Spain, for had the native troops joined the insurgents at the commencement of the disturbance the small body of European troops could hardly have withstood them, and the whole country would soon have been in possession of the rebels. If ultimately Spain had been able to reconquer her lost colony it would have been only at great cost, for the recent campaign has shown that the Philippine native makes a good soldier and clever organiser and that he is resourceful in difficulties. Open rebellion has for the present been suppressed, but secret disaffection no doubt continues

and will be ready to break out again should the ruling race afford it an opportunity. Although the great mass of the native army remained loyal in the recent outbreak there were nevertheless a considerable number of deserters to the enemy and sufficient signs of wavering to make the Government unwilling to trust to this arm of defence so completely as in the past. But a more potent influence than the army in the preservation of order under the old regime was the power of the priests. This has now received a rude shock and can no longer be relied upon. It follows, therefore, that a considerable European army will have to be permanently maintained in the islands, and as the cost will have to be defrayed from the local exchequer there will have to be a radical rearrangement of the finances or greatly increased taxation. The country, however, is possessed of great natural resources, which if properly developed would yield a sufficient income to cover all costs of government without resort being had to crushing taxation. One of the first steps towards the development of a country's resources is the making of roads, and this has already been decided upon, for military reasons, so far as the province of Cavite is concerned. The movements of the army operating against the rebels in that province were greatly impeded by the absence of roads, and the present Governor-General has given orders for the work of making a network of roads to be at once entered upon. The *Comercio* thereupon urges that railways ought also to be made, on account both of their commercial and military advantages, and it instances in support of its argument the assistance the Dagupan railway afforded in preserving peace in the northern provinces and preventing the rebellion gaining headway there. The religious orders established in the Philippines are, however, credited with having opposed the construction of railways in the past, as they have opposed all other progressive measures, and their influence will doubtless still be exerted on the same side. And these orders possess the power of the purse, through which they are enabled to exercise vast political influence in Spain as well as locally in the Philippines, having, as is reported, a fund of over twenty million dollars upon which they can draw for this purpose. They were, however, not strong enough to prevent their disestablishment in Spain, and though it is not likely, unfortunately, that they will be at once disestablished in the Philippines, it is possible that as a result of the recent disturbances they may find their power considerably curtailed. With the increase of their wealth and their aggrandising proclivities the orders have outgrown the usefulness they possessed in earlier days when their members acted as *bona fide* missionaries, and the sooner their present influence decays the better will it be for the country. If it be found that the recent rebellion has conducted to that end it will not have been without its good effect. But while acknowledging the good, we would not wish to be understood as approving the means by which it has been achieved. Had the rebellion succeeded the Government that would have been established would have been worse than the one it replaced, for the Philippine natives are not yet sufficiently advanced for uncontrolled self-government. They have proved that they possess patriotism, and from the accounts of some of the Spaniards who were in the hands of the rebels as prisoners for longer or shorter periods it would seem that some of the leaders were also capable of moderation, self-control, and even magnanimity,

but if success had attended the movement there would have been little likelihood of the disinterested and clean-handed section being able to hold in check the disorderly and self-seeking elements that went to make up the rebel forces.

THE HONGKONG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

From a circular issued by Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, the Hon. Secretary, we regret to learn that the Hongkong Public Library is threatened with extinction owing to want of funds. There are 74 annual subscribers and the subscription being \$10 the income amounts to \$740, while the expenses amount roughly to \$50 a month, or \$600 a year, leaving only a very small margin to invest in new books. That the library is appreciated and freely used by the subscribers is attested by the fact that from the 1st January to the 15th May last, a period of 135 days, the number of books taken out amounted to 1,134. That the number of subscribers is so comparatively small may be accounted for by the fact of the library being rather inconveniently housed and inaccessible and also that even its existence is not so generally known as it might be. At the public meeting held in connection with the subject on the 21st October, 1895, H.E. the Governor promised his support to the institution and mentioned as a contrast to the existing state of affairs in Hongkong the large and useful public libraries possessed by the West Indian colonies of which he had had experience, namely, the Bahamas, the Barbadoes, and Trinidad. His Excellency thought \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year ought to be voted by the Legislative Council for the support of the Public Library, which, he said, could not fail to be of great public use to the residents of Hongkong. The Colonial Secretary at the same meeting said he thought the Government might give something in the way of a grant of land for the erection of the library building which Hongkong should possess. Mr. T. JACKSON, the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, and other gentlemen also spoke in support of the institution and at that time the prospect certainly looked fairly promising. So far, however, the Government has done nothing and the institution has been left to struggle on with the funds provided by the subscriptions of members. Had it not been for the exertions of the Hon. Secretary, who has also given financial assistance, it is doubtful whether the library could have existed so long as it has done. In the circular now issued to the members Mr. POLLOCK, after stating the financial position, says:—"Under the above circumstances it appears to be manifestly necessary that the subscriptions to the Library should be increased if it is to be continued as a going concern, and, unless all the present members of the Library are willing to raise their subscription from \$5.00 a half year to \$7.50 a half year, it appears to be absolutely impossible that the Library should be carried on in an efficient and satisfactory condition, and there would seem to be no alternative in that case but to close the Library and to sell the books, many of which are standard and valuable works, at a sacrifice." We trust, however, means may be found for carrying on the institution without increasing the rate of subscription. What the colony requires is a "public library" in the true sense of the term, and the idea of a high subscription is not usually associated with that of a public library. To many members of the community

\$15 a year may seem a small matter, but there is a large and growing class in the colony who find it necessary to watch their expenditure very narrowly and to them an additional \$5 a year would be a consideration of some moment. And this is the very class for whom a public library should cater, families of small incomes and young people who have just gone to business and whose supply of pocket money is strictly limited. We would much prefer, if it were possible, to see the subscription reduced to a merely nominal sum or abolished altogether, the library being made entirely free. That could only be done either by the establishment of an endowment fund by one or more wealthy members of the community or by the Government defraying the whole expenditure, neither of which alternatives seems at the moment at all probable. Some assistance, however, may reasonably be expected from the Government, and a very small annual grant would be sufficient to keep the existing Public Library on its legs as a nucleus from which a larger and more popular institution might be evolved in the future. Four or five hundred dollars a year would cover the amount the Hon. Secretary now asks the members to provide by increased subscriptions, and that is a very much more modest sum to ask from the Government than the three or four thousand dollars of which Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON spoke at the meeting held eighteen months ago.

ABROGATION OF THE NIGHT PASS LAW.

In his last annual report the Registrar-General says:—"Quarterly passes are now issued to the extent of fourteen or fifteen thousand, and, as there is no means of detecting the transfer of these passes to persons who are not really the holders of them, there appears to be a danger of the pass becoming a protection for rather than a safeguard against persons who are on evil bent. In the opinion of many the time has now arrived when the pass system might be with advantage abolished in ordinary times and enforced only on occasions of an unusual nature." At the last meeting of the Legislative Council an Ordinance was passed effecting an amendment of the law in the sense recommended by the Registrar-General, and the colony is to be heartily congratulated thereupon. The night pass system has in its actual working proved the occasion of an immense amount of injustice and of State-created crime. Thousands of men guilty of no moral offence have been fined and imprisoned under it, and frequently under circumstances of considerable cruelty. The Government has never enforced the law continuously for any very long period, but simply by fits and starts; after it had been allowed to remain in abeyance for a time it would suddenly be revived, according to the fancy of the officials who happened to be responsible for the matter at the time, and with little or no warning, so that large numbers of respectable persons were apprehended, some of them simply for crossing the street from a friend's house to their own. Even if it could be shown that any advantage attached to the law the disadvantages greatly outweighed it. But it never has been shown that the law has proved of any use whatever, nor can it be so shown, its effect on the criminal classes being purely a matter of conjecture. If it kept bad characters in-doors at night, that would be an advantage undoubtedly, but it has been

suggested on the other hand that thieves and burglars frequently sent a confederate ahead to be arrested for not having a pass, the policeman being thus taken off his beat for the time being and leaving the way clear for the commission of the intended crime; the effect being to keep the streets clear of policemen instead of clear of bad characters; and according to the Registrar-General, who ought to know, there is no reason why the bad characters themselves should not obtain night passes if they so desire. However that may be, it is a matter of satisfaction that the immense amount of injustice of which the law in question has been the occasion is now to be brought to an end.

LIMITATION OF SETTLEMENT AREAS IN FORMOSA.

Regulations have been issued by the Governor-General of Formosa prohibiting the sale, granting, transferring, mortgaging, or pledging of land to foreigners in Formosa "beyond the limits of the space allotted for purposes of mixed residence at the open ports." The fixing of the limits referred to may possibly prove rather a difficult matter, the area of the open ports never having been defined under the Chinese treaties and therefore remaining equally vague under the Japanese regime. The question of settlement limits in Formosa formed the subject of newspaper discussion some seven years ago. It was contended on the one hand that by the British treaty of Tientsin the whole island was thrown open to foreign trade and residence. Article XI. of that treaty provides that "In addition to the cities and towns of Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai, opened by the treaty of Nanking. British subjects may frequent the cities and ports of Newchwang, Tungchow (Chefoo), Taiwan (Formosa), Chaochow (Swatow), and Kiungchow (Hainan)." As Taiwan was the Chinese name both of the island and its chief town there is some ambiguity in the clause, but in the treaty with France, which was signed the day after that with Great Britain, the words are "Taiwan et Tanshui dans l'île de Formose." In the American treaty the words are "Taiwan in Formosa." In the German and most of the other treaties, as in the French, Tamsui is mentioned as well as Taiwan. As used here, therefore, "Taiwan" cannot be held to mean the whole of Formosa. Takow and Kelung were opened to trade without any special provision of treaty and foreigners have also been allowed to build houses and carry on trade at Twatutia, an inland town, and it was contended in the discussion referred to that this was done under the wide interpretation placed upon the British treaty. That interpretation does not appear to us to be correct, but however that may be the fact remains that no settlement limits have ever been defined and agreed upon, and in the case of Tamsui the same applies not to a particular town but to a district. Foreign Governments will not surrender any rights acquired by their nationals, and the attempt of the Japanese to define the limits of the "space allotted for purposes of mixed residence at the open ports" may therefore not prove easy to carry out, involving as it does restrictions upon foreigners to which they have not hitherto been subject.

The annual competition by the Shanghai Fire Brigade for the challenge shield presented by the Fire Insurance Companies took place on the 15th May and was won by the French Company.

THE PEIHO.

The bends of the river Peiho, like the periodical siltings up of the Woosung Bar, have for many years been the cause of great loss and obstruction to trade. As in the case of the so-called "Heaven-sent barrier," the Chinese officials at Tientsin have never really been anxious or even willing to make any improvement in the devious and erratic river which till recently afforded the only communication with the coast. The loss to shipowners and merchants, native and foreign, had no terrors for the mandarins, who were quite content to witness the delays, to see vessels struck in the mud or block up the channel. Vainly have foreign merchants appealed through their representatives, and vainly have the Ministers urged the policy of providing some machinery for the purpose of dredging the channel or of widening the river at the frequent bends in its course between Taku and Tientsin. LI HUNG-CHANG, with all his professions of a desire for progress, never, during his long tenure of the post of Governor-General of Chihli, could be induced to advocate this improvement or take steps to bring it about. The truth is, no doubt, that the Chinese Authorities had no desire to see the river rendered too easy of navigation, preferring to retain it in such a condition that it could at very short notice be closed entirely to foreign ships, whether gunboats or merchant steamers. Any real change in this policy would be somewhat of a surprise even in these latter days of railway extension. An apparent recognition of the evils of allowing the river bed to silt up has, however, just been extracted from His Excellency WANG WEN-SHAO, the present Viceroy of the metropolitan province. In response to representations made by the foreign community of Tientsin on the subject, and asking that some steps may be taken to remedy the evil, the Viceroy has issued a proclamation, in which the necessity for remedial measures is frankly acknowledged, and he has appointed WU Taotai to take charge of the conservancy of the Peiho. This official was in charge of various river works during the administration of LI HUNG-CHANG, and is reported to be an active and intelligent man. It is to be hoped, however, that the matter will not end with the mere appointment of a respectable mandarin who may have neither the wish nor the power to undertake any effective work. Too often projects for improvement in China end with the authorisation of some temporary repairs on which as much money is squandered as would nearly suffice to complete the necessary work. Unless the works for the improvement of the river are carried out according to the plans and under the superintendence of foreign engineers, there is little chance of any permanent benefit being derived from them. The Viceroy may, however, desire to show that he is more sincerely a friend of progress than his predecessor, and in consequence may permit the conservation of the Peiho to proceed as proof of the fact.

The collieries in various districts in Kynshu, which are now in difficulty owing to the increased demand and deficiency in supply of miners and the consequent rise of wages, are contemplating to import labour from foreign countries. Some mine-owners in Saga prefecture have received sanction from the Foreign Department to hire Koreans, and have forthwith proceeded to avail themselves of this permission. This is indeed a blow to Japan's reputation as a country plentifully supplied with cheap labour; but it has been gradually becoming evident that sooner or later such a step would be inevitable.—*Japan Times*.

SUPREME COURT.

19th May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A WRIT OF "HABEAS CORPUS."—AN INTERESTING ARGUMENT.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson) moved for a writ of *habeas corpus* to bring up four men who were confined in Victoria Gaol, having been deported from Singapore and being detained here for transport to Canton.

Consul mentioned that an affidavit had been sworn to by a man named Li Fuk Yuen and there was nothing on the face of that affidavit to show that the men had been guilty of any offence in the colony. They were arrested on arriving here that morning and were told by Inspector Stanton that they would be detained and taken on board the Canton steamer the same evening. Of course there was only one method by which this could be done and that was by an order under the Deportation Ordinance; but the Ordinance did not empower the Governor to send them to any place, but to a place where they chose themselves to go.

His Lordship—There is nothing to show me that they were not sent up from Singapore under some Ordinance.

Mr. Francis—There is no power under which they can be detained.

His Lordship—Suppose they were sent up from Singapore under the Rendition Ordinance?

Mr. Francis—That is simply a matter of common law; the order would cease to have any effect the moment these men passed out of the jurisdiction of the colony.

His Lordship—This might be the only way they can get to Canton.

Mr. Francis—The Singapore authorities might have the fullest power to punish them—

His Lordship—Suppose the men have been tried down there and rendition to China.

Mr. Francis—Then they would be in Chinese custody. On the affidavit they are in custody at this moment without any authority and without committing any offence. They have been informed by Inspector Stanton that they are going to be sent to Canton and what we want to know is whether they are going to be sent without any authority.

His Lordship—Your affidavit is not strong enough.

Mr. Francis—I admit it is weak, but the men arrived here only this morning from the Straits Settlements and they are going to be sent away to Canton this afternoon.

His Lordship then read the affidavit which stated that the deponent, Li Fuk Yuen, was acquainted with the four men and that, on arriving that morning from the Straits they were taken to Victoria Gaol. He was informed that it was the intention of the police to send them to Canton in the afternoon. The men had never resided in Hongkong and he believed they had committed no offence against the laws of the colony.

Mr. Francis—*Prima facie*, if the men never having resided here, there is no cause of their detention. In addition there is the statement that it is the intention of the police to ship them to Canton, possibly this evening. I ask your Lordship for a writ of *habeas corpus* so that they can be brought up here to-morrow morning, when we can ascertain if there is any justifiable authority for their detention.

His Lordship—What *prima facie* cause is there for the detention of Mrs. Carey? I understand from the newspapers that she is in the gaol here and suppose somebody came and said she was here—

Mr. Francis—There is *prima facie* an order for her detention under the provisions of the Order in Council.

His Lordship—We have nothing to show that she has been convicted except the newspapers.

Mr. Francis—That is perfectly true, but there is a very broad difference between her case and the case of these four men. You have a certain amount of knowledge derived from the newspapers, but the simple fact that it was intended to forcibly remove her from the colony

this evening would be perfectly good ground for granting a writ of *habeas corpus*.

His Lordship: Of course the men are perfectly safe here and it only means a delay of twenty-four hours.

Mr. Francis: A writ would prevent premature or illegal action on the part of the authorities.

His Lordship: I do not see where it is all going to end. You might get any coolie to swear an information like this; but I certainly think there is a *prima facie* case.

Mr. Francis: I think that is sufficient to justify the writ, my Lord.

His Lordship then granted the writ of *habeas corpus* and made it returnable next morning.

20th May.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON.
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson) moved that the four Chinamen brought to the court under a writ of *habeas corpus* be discharged.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), appeared on behalf of Mr. F. H. May (Acting Superintendent of Victoria Gaol) to oppose the motion.

The return of Mr. May under the writ was read. He certified that the men were taken by him as Superintendent of Police by virtue of an Order made by the Governor in Council under the provisions of the Banishment and Conditional Pardons Ordinance 8 of 1882, as amended by Ordinance 4 of 1885.

The Order of the Governor in Council was also read. It set forth that it was deemed advisable by the Governor in Council that the four men should be prohibited under the conditions of the Banishment and Conditional Pardons Ordinance from residing or being in the colony for a longer space of time than one month from the date of the order, when the men shall depart from the colony. The grounds were that the men had been banished by the Government of Selangor for inciting their countrymen to resist the laws of the state and that their presence in this colony was dangerous to the peace and good order of the colony.

The Attorney-General said he appeared for Mr. May, the gentleman who obtained the return of the writ of *habeas corpus* issued on the previous day, and he asked his Lordship if he might be allowed now, under Rule 243 of the Crown Office Rules, to apply for the prisoners to be remanded in custody on the ground that the return was good.

His Lordship said the way the matter appeared to him was this. The counsel for the prisoners obtained a writ to produce the bodies of the men. The return was made and if their counsel thought the return was a good one he might elect not to go on any further. If he thought the return was not a good one the ordinary course would be to move for the discharge of the prisoners.

Mr. Francis then moved that the prisoners be discharged. He submitted that the Order made by His Excellency the Governor in Council was as bad as bad could be. In the first place it was dated the 10th of May when these four men were not in the colony and when the Governor had no possible jurisdiction over them. The whole frame of the Order necessarily implied that the persons with reference to whom it was made were within the colony and it was an Order that they shall depart from the colony—an Order that certainly could not be made until they were first in the colony. It was not an Order that they shall not come into the colony; it was simply an order that they shall depart from the colony within one month after the date of the Order.

His Lordship here interposed and said an affidavit by the prisoners had just been handed to him by the Registrar.

The affidavit was read and it set forth that the men had resided in the State of Selangor in the Malay Peninsula and that they had committed no crime or offence against the laws of that State. In April last they were arrested by the Sultan of Selangor on suspicion of having incited certain of their countrymen

against the laws of the State, and on the 11th May they proceeded from the Straits Settlements and arrived in Hongkong on the 19th May. Immediately on their arrival they were taken to the Police Station and informed by Inspector Stanton that they would be sent to Canton. None of them had resided in Hongkong and none had committed any offence against the laws of the colony. They feared that if they were taken to Canton the effect of their banishment would be considered sufficient proof of their being criminal and they would consequently incur most severe punishment without any trial or inquiry being made.

Mr. Francis, continuing, said his second point was that the order was, as shown by the affidavit, incorrect in point of fact as it recited that the men were banished by the Governor of Selangor, whereas there was no such person in existence. They were banished by the Sultan of Selangor. Counsel also submitted that there were no grounds mentioned in the order as was required by Ordinance 8 of 1882—no grounds were set forth showing why the prisoners had been ordered to be banished from this colony, and if any grounds were set forth they were wholly insufficient to justify such an order.

The Attorney-General pointed out that the affidavit set forth that it was the Government and not the Governor which had banished the prisoners from Selangor.

Mr. Francis admitted that he had made a mistake in regard to that. The fact of the men's banishment from Selangor was no justification whatever for the action of the Governor in banishing them from this colony, where they had never resided and where they had committed no offence. The sole power that the Governor had under the Ordinance was to prohibit any person residing or being in the colony, and he went entirely beyond his powers when he or the executive officers of the Government attempted, as had been done by Inspector Stanton in this case, to force any man to leave the colony for any particular place, and Counsel asked for an expression of his Lordship's opinion as to whether the action the police were about to adopt was legal and proper. A banished man could go absolutely where he pleased, so long as he went within the time provided in the Order, and he could select what kind of vessel he would like to go by. A gross outrage would have been committed against these men if the application for a writ of *habeas corpus* had not been made, as they would have been forced against their will on board the Canton steamer. He moved that the prisoners be discharged and that the Order made by His Excellency the Governor in Council be declared wholly illegal and unwarranted on the ground that it was made at a time when the men were not within the jurisdiction and when no order to depart from the colony could possibly take effect, and also that it did not set out the grounds which could warrant and justify the prohibition of residence in the colony.

His Lordship pointed out that the Ordinance also said "being within" the colony, in addition to residing. "Residing" contemplated residence, but "being in" did not.

Mr. Francis said that in 99 cases out of a 100 the fact of men being sent to Canton on such an order as this would simply mean that they would be immediately led to the execution ground.

His Lordship said that as a matter of form it would be as well to deal with one man at a time, and the case of the first man, Chun Lum, was according taken.

The Attorney-General said he appeared for the Captain Superintendent of Police who had made his return to the writ of *habeas corpus*, in due form. The return shewed, he submitted, that the men were properly in custody under a Banishment Order made by the Governor in Council under Section 3 of Ordinance 8 of 1882, as amended and supplemented by Ordinance 4 of 1885. He admitted that such legislation conferred exceptional powers on the Governor in Council, and that those powers were of great benefit to the community, as Hongkong was situated exceptionally; that is to say, at the threshold of the southern part of the Chinese Empire with its teeming millions of people, some of whom were extremely turbulent. The exceptional difficulties were met with exceptional

powers being conferred. The Governor in Council acted under a full sense of the responsibility involved in the exercise of such powers. The Ordinance required the Order of Banishment to set forth a statement of the ground upon which it was made. This requirement was duly complied with, and the grounds mentioned that the man had been just recently banished from Selangor, and that his presence in this colony would be dangerous to the peace and good order of the colony. Mr. Francis contended the order was bad because first it was inaccurate; that contention was, however, given up. Next it was contended it was bad because it was made before the man arrived in the colony. But it was common practice to issue, for instance, warrants of arrest, though at the time the person mentioned in the warrant was not in the colony at the time. It only took effect when the person arrived here. So, too, the Banishment Order preventing the man from "residing or being in" this colony was dated 10th May, to take effect from 19th May, the day on which he arrived. As regarded the object of requiring the "grounds" to be stated, this was useful as the man might ask to be allowed to show he was not the man mentioned. In this case, he might ask to show he was not banished from Selangor, a friendly State with a British Resident. He knew, however, such was the case, and indeed the Secretary of State might wish to know the grounds. As regarded those grounds unless they were absurd or frivolous, and it would hardly be respectful to the Governor in Council to suppose he would act on such grounds, it appeared to the Attorney-General that the Court would not go into those grounds. The Court would not go into the facts of the case and review the decision of the Governor in Council or treat such a decision as if it had been the decision of a Magistrate or an inferior Court. In this case, the matter had been carefully considered, the history of each of the four men had been gone into, and the Governor in Council had decided their presence here would be dangerous to the good order and peace of the colony. The men were legally in custody. They were on their way to Canton when they arrived here, but if they wished to go elsewhere out of the colony they would not be prevented. They were natives of the Canton district, and got a free passage there. It was clear they might remain here for a month if they wished, but that by the Order and the Ordinance they would have to remain in custody. They never told the officer they did not wish to proceed to Canton, nor did they indicate their preference for any other place. In conclusion, the Attorney-General submitted that Mr. Francis had shown no valid ground for the issue of the writ of *habeas corpus*, but that the men were, on the other hand, in legal custody, and must remain so till they left the colony; and he asked that the prisoners should be remanded back to that custody.

Mr. Francis, in reply, said the Attorney-General's case stood condemned on his argument alone. He (Mr. Francis) was treating this Order as a purely administrative Order, but the Attorney-General had spoken of the Council as an investigating tribunal. One of the fundamental principles of English law was that the Governor in Council had no right or power to come to any decision of this kind without first having heard the men. In no case could an Order be made unless in the presence of the person concerned.

His Lordship: Where is there any indication of that?

Mr. Francis said there was no indication of it, but bad practice did not make good law. It was a broad, general, fundamental rule applicable in every case that no man could be punished in any shape or form—and banishment from this colony was a punishment—without having an opportunity of answering the charge made against him. Counsel, after further argument, again asked his Lordship to discharge the men on the grounds he had set forth.

His Lordship: In this case a writ was directed to Francis Henry May, the Acting Superintendent of Victoria Gaol. It commanded him to produce the body of this man, Chun Lun—because at present we are dealing only with his case—before this Court together

with the return of the day of his being taken and detained. The return made by Mr. May is to the effect that he took the prisoner on the 19th May and detained him by virtue of an Order made by the Governor in Council under the authority of the Banishment and Conditional Pardons Ordinance 8 of 1882, as amended by Ordinance 4 of 1885. He produced the Order in Council relating to the prisoner. Now the enactments referred to in the return, and upon which the Order in Council is founded, are Section 3 of the Banishment and Conditional Pardons Ordinance of 1882 and Section 4 of Ordinance 4 of 1885. Section 3 is in the following terms—"The Governor in Council may, by order prohibit any person not being a natural born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty from residing or being within this colony during any space of time not exceeding five years, and may by the same or any subsequent order fix the time for the departure of such person from the colony. Every order made under this section prohibiting any person from residing or being within this colony shall contain a statement of the grounds upon which it is made." Section 4, which was apparently enacted to meet the difficulty of a person ordered to leave the colony getting out of the sight of the police and possibly evading the order in that way, is as follows:—"It shall be in the direction of the Governor in Council to order that the person named in any such order be detained in custody of the police until he leaves the colony, and such person may therefore be arrested and shall be deemed to be under lawful arrest until he leaves the colony or until the final departure from the colony of any vessel in which he leaves." Now these powers are very large executive powers. They no doubt were conferred upon the Governor in Council in view of the peculiar circumstances of this colony, as it is near the mainland of China, where there are a considerable number of terrible characters who might, if they lived in this colony, be dangerous to its peace and good order. The power is conferred in very large terms and a court of justice, having regard to the object of the enactments and to the largeness of the terms in which they are framed, would no doubt be reluctant to curtail their operation by interfering unnecessarily with the discretion of the Governor in Council in carrying them into execution. At the same time I think it is competent for this Court in proceedings on a writ of *habeas corpus* to consider the order and to see whether or not it complies with the law. For instance, supposing a person arrested and detained satisfies the Court that he is a natural born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty; then clearly the power conferred by these enactments could not be applied to him, and the order made against him would be illegal and the Court would disregard it and order the person's release. The recital by the Governor in Council in the order that the person named in the order is not a natural born or naturalized subject of Her Majesty would not preclude this Court from inquiring into the statement and finding what the particular fact was. Then in regard to the question of the grounds. It is required by Section 3 that the order must state the grounds on which it is made. No doubt it is intended primarily, I should think, for the purpose of giving the person affected by the order information of the reasons for which he is to be banished in order that he may move the Governor in Council to rescind the order by saying that the grounds are not correct and that the order has been made under a misapprehension. I think also that the provision of the grounds being necessary is probably to give the Court power, if the order is good, to consider if the grounds are reasonable and such as can sustain the Order. I feel clear that if the Order contained frivolous grounds they would be no grounds at all, but at the same time I feel equally clear, as Mr. Francis has, in fact, admitted, that if the grounds are reasonable and such as can sustain the Order the Court will not go behind the Order. The Court must assume that the Governor in Council has exercised this large power with a due sense of responsibility so that no injustice should be done. The power is intended here for the good of the public and it must be taken that the Governor in Council is administering it for the good of the public. The specific ground mentioned by

Mr. Francis is that the order is invalid because it was made at a time when the man was not in the colony and had no opportunity of being heard against the making of the Order. Well, I do not think I can find any reason in the enactments for thinking this ground to be well founded. I do not see why the Governor in Council may not make an Order with respect to a person, who is about to arrive in the colony, before his arrival. It seems to me that that is a very necessary complement of this power, because it may very well be that the Governor in Council receives information that some notorious pirate, or robber, or murderer from the mainland intends to come to Hongkong, and the provisions of this Ordinance clearly are intended to prevent any such person coming to Hongkong at all. I think it would be quite competent in such a case for the Governor in Council to make an order on receiving such information as that and to make the order operative at the moment of the arrival of the person in the colony, so that practically he would be arrested immediately on arrival and detained until he left the colony; in fact that he would not be allowed at liberty in Hongkong at all. I think there is no ground to think the order invalid because it was made before the arrival in the colony of this man. Secondly, has the man any right to be heard against the making of the Order? I do not think he has. I think it is an executive power. It is not a judicial proceeding; it is made on the responsibility of the Governor in Council exercising this power, and I do not think a person is entitled to go before the Governor in Council to be heard against the Order. It is essentially an Order given in the discretion of the Governor in Council, and the party is not in any sense entitled to say "I must be brought before the Council and I must hear the grounds and have an opportunity of refuting them and giving evidence." The power is exercised on the responsibility of the Governor in Council, the reasons for exercising it being stated. Mr. Francis referred to the supposed inaccuracy in the Order with respect to the Government of Selangor, but I do not think he presses that point.

Mr. Francis—No, my Lord, it was a misreading.

His Lordship—Well, then, the last and most material point is, are the grounds set forth in the Order of the Governor in Council such as can sustain the Order? I think they are. I think the fact, which is not disputed, that this man was banished by the Government of Selangor, that is to say, the Government of a friendly State, may be taken as a sufficient ground for the Governor in Council to proceed to form the opinion that the presence in the colony of that man banished from a friendly State would be a danger to the peace and good order of the colony. I think it must be assumed that a man banished from a friendly State is a dangerous character and that there must be some good cause for his being banished. If he were banished for the sake of the peace and good order of a friendly State he may well be banished for the peace and good order of this colony also. Therefore I think the grounds set forth in the Order are quite sufficient to support the Order. I think, therefore, the Court must find that this Order is a valid and good one and the Court sees no reason to go behind it or to in any way affect its operation. The practical result is that the motion for the discharge of this man must be refused. But Mr. Francis referred to another point upon which he asks the opinion of the Court. It is the question of the sending away or getting out of the colony of this man. Strictly speaking it is not for the Court to express any opinion on that point, but still, as Mr. Francis has, on behalf of his client, appealed to me on that point, I think it is not going too much outside one's functions to say that it appears to me quite clear that when an order for banishment is made against a person he is not a criminal. He is, so to speak, left in possession of his freedom of movement except that he must leave the colony within a limited time, and if the Governor in Council thinks fit he may be detained during that time. But the words used in the Ordinance clearly contemplate his free departure from the colony; they clearly do not refer to any forced

deportation from the colony, and I think there is nothing in the Ordinance to sanction a man being taken forcibly and being put on board any vessel and sent to any place to which he does not wish to go. Therefore I suggest to the Captain Superintendent of Police that in these cases he should comply with the spirit of the Ordinance and that a man should be allowed to go by what vessel he likes. If he does not go within the time allowed he is liable to be punished under section 4. He can wait until the last day of the time allowed and then he must take his departure by what vessel he likes and he can go where he likes. I think his wishes should be consulted in that respect. The result is that the motion for discharge must be refused and, of course, I take it Mr. Francis will not make any motion with respect to the others.

Mr. Francis—No, my Lord, I thank your Lordship for your expression of opinion on the point to which I called your Lordship's attention.

The Attorney-General applied for costs.

Mr. Francis opposed.

His Lordship said if the Attorney-General wished to proceed with the application he would hear it in Chambers.

19th May.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

FIXTURES.

The Attorney-General asked that a charge of counterfeiting coin should be taken on Friday, when he hoped Mr. Robinson, who was defending, would be able to appear. Of course if he could not he would have to do what other barristers had done—hand over his brief to some one else. With regard to the arson case, in which Mr. Robinson also appeared, the Attorney-General suggested that it should be taken on Wednesday instead of Tuesday, which followed the Queen's birthday and was also mail day. It would therefore be in the interests of the public if the case was taken on Wednesday.

His Lordship agreed and said he would take the counterfeit coin case to-morrow and the arson case on Wednesday.

The Attorney-General said he hoped Mr. Robinson would not think he was unduly pressing the coining case, but it was a case of some importance and there were a number of witnesses to be called, and it was absolutely necessary in the public interest that the sessions should terminate some time.

CHARGE OF BRIBERY: A CURIOUS CON- TREMPS.

Cham Wing was charged with unlawfully, wickedly, and corruptly offering a bribe of \$30 to a Chinese police constable on the 30th April.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted and Mr. M. W. Slade defended, being instructed by Mr. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master's office.

The jurors were—Messrs. J. M. Gutierrez, E. Mirow, G. T. Rivers, T. B. Powell, A. M. Barrados, J. A. Gutierrez, A. H. Alemas.

The case for the prosecution was that the prisoner was apprehended by a Chinese constable on a charge of being in unlawful possession of six and a half bags of sugar and that he then offered the constable \$30 as a bribe to let him go. The constable refused to be bribed and the prisoner was taken before the Magistrate and fined £5 for the unlawful possession of the sugar and committed for trial on the charge of bribery. The fine was paid and notice of appeal was given.

As far as the parties on both sides knew the case stood in this position yesterday morning. It was not until the case had been proceeding nearly an hour and a half that it was discovered by the Attorney-General, who looked over the original depositions in the unlawful possession case, that the Magistrate had reviewed his decision in the unlawful possession case and had quashed the conviction, the accused thus being considered not guilty. It seems that when he was arrested he had a book in his possession showing where he was taking the sugar to, but this book was not put in evidence at the police court.

The Attorney-General, as soon as he made the important discovery, mentioned the fact in Court. He added that neither Mr. Gedge, the prisoner's solicitor, nor the prisoner himself knew anything about the decision being reversed; in fact no one knew anything about it and the fine had not been remitted.

Mr. Slade said that he knew nothing whatever about the previous decision being reversed, and the application for the appeal had not been withdrawn.

His Lordship said the fact that the prisoner had been acquitted of the charge of being in unlawful possession very much lessened the likelihood of his offering a bribe. Why should he offer a bribe to the police if he was innocent?

After some discussion between the Attorney-General and Mr. Slade His Lordship said that the Attorney-General had better go on unless he thought that his case had been weakened by the fact that the accused was discharged. The Magistrate ought certainly to have had the parties before him when he reviewed his decision.

The Attorney-General replied that he would continue with the case. The fact that the man had been found not guilty did not prove that he did not offer a bribe to the constable.

The case then proceeded and lasted until after five o'clock, the result being that the prisoner was unanimously found not guilty and he was discharged.

Mr. Slade asked for the return of the prisoner's money and the application was granted. He then asked for the return of the sugar.

In regard to the sugar the Attorney-General said that if the Magistrate reviewed his decision while the application for appeal was pending he did what he had no business to do.

His Lordship replied that he had nothing to do with the sugar and therefore could not make any order in regard to it.

21st May.

BOLTED.

When the case against a Chinaman for counterfeit coining was called on the prisoner, who had been allowed out on bail, did not answer to his name.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General)—My Lord, this case was fixed for to-day owing to the indisposition of Mr. Robinson. I saw Mr. Robinson this morning and he informs me that the fee promised to him has not been paid and he does not appear for the man now. He also informed me that he has reason to believe that the accused has absconded. The man was let out on bail and, so I am informed by Mr. Seth, he deposited certain securities at the Magistracy, namely, \$500. Probably it pays a man of this description, possessing a considerable sum of money, far better to hand over the \$500 than to stand his trial. \$500 is a very small sum as bail in a case of this sort; it is not £50, and the fact that he does not appear corroborates what I have said, that he has probably run away. I ask that the money be estreated and I also apply for the Bench warrant.

His Lordship ordered the money to be estreated and granted a Bench warrant for the man's apprehension.

The Attorney-General said there were no other cases for that day. It was rather unfortunate, as the arson case might have been taken; but this was the result of all the arrangements one was asked to make by Counsel on the other side.

The Court then adjourned.

26th May.

THE CHARGE OF ARSON.

Wong Lin Kang was charged with feloniously, unlawfully, and maliciously setting fire to a dwelling house at 99, Jervois Street, there being at the time three persons in the house, on the 21st April.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted, and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. V. H. Deacon) defended the prisoner, who pleaded not guilty.

The jury were—Messrs. Chan He Wan, J. M. de Rozario, D. F. C. de Roza, L. R. Ruchwaldy, Louis Ken Chee, H. McPhail, and P. E. Silva.

Mr. F. M. Gutierrez was called as a jurymen but on the application of Mr. Robinson he was asked to stand aside as he was connected with the North British and Mercantile Fire Insurance Company.

The Attorney-General explained that the ground and second floors of the premises at 99, Jervois Street, were occupied by a dealer in bird's nests and the first floor was occupied by a dealer in piece goods. The piece goods shop was occupied by the master, the accountant, and an apprentice, all of whom were suffocated in the fire. At the time of the fire the master of the bird's nest shop was at Shanghai and the accountant was at Canton; the prisoner being left in charge of the place. The goods on the ground and second floors were insured for \$7,000, but as a matter of fact at the time of the fire they were not worth as many hundreds as they were insured for thousands, and it would be proved that two or three days before the fire two or three boxes of bird's nests were sent away from the premises to Macao. The fire, which was a very sharp one, was very quickly put out, and after the firemen had finished tins containing kerosine were found in such situations and under such circumstances as to give rise to the conclusion that the fire was caused intentionally and not by accident. In cases of arson it was very difficult to bring home the guilt to the culprit. In many instances the fire lasted so long that all proofs of the manner by which it was caused were destroyed, and as a rule the police had to rely on the evidence of the people in the shop, and if the circumstances were very suspicious indeed and there was likely to be a prosecution the people in the shop went out of the jurisdiction of the colony unless they were arrested. In that case the police were in the awkward position that they could not ask the apprehended persons any questions. Particulars had to be ascertained and how on earth could they be ascertained except from the persons in the shop? They had to be let out one by one and put in the witness box to say what they pleased, and as a rule they were far from friendly to the prosecution. It would be proved that the prisoner slept in the accountant's room on the ground floor, where a tin of kerosine, which had a hole in it, some matting, and some paper torches were found. The defence might be set up that the fire originated on the first floor, where the three men were suffocated. It would be proved, however, that the fire did not originate there. Police Sergeant Macaulay, who was the first on the scene, would say that when he got there the fire was burning fiercely on the ground floor, principally near the counter just outside the accountant's room. It was perfectly true that three tins of kerosine were found under the bed on the first floor; one was full of oil, another was partly filled, and the third was empty. But the fire could not have originated there as while the head of the bed was burnt the bed boards above the tins were not burnt at all. Another curious fact was that while \$169 was found on the first floor only one cash was found on the ground floor. In conclusion the Attorney-General said that an important letter was found in the prisoner's room. This letter was from the master of the shop to his two partners, Wing Sing (the accountant) and Wong Lin Kang (the prisoner), and was dated Shanghai, April 8th. The letter concluded "Your letter of to-day's date says that the insurance has been renewed. Now you are in the shop you must devise means to save me and I shall be deeply steeped in your generosity. Business, when prosperous, is very easy to manage, but when failing it is very difficult to tell others. I sincerely hope that you two will consult together and act when opportunity offers. That will do, there is no necessity for further orders."

Evidence was then called in support of this statement.

The case for the prosecution had not closed when the Court adjourned.

The case was continued on the 27th May, but the prosecution was not closed when the Court adjourned. The most interesting point in the day's proceedings was the ruling of the Judge

that the letter which was alleged to have been addressed to the prisoner from Shanghai by the principal partner in the shop was inadmissible on the ground that there was no proof from whom the document came. Mr. Robinson, for the prisoner, raised the question as to the admissibility of the letter and quoted cases in support of his contention.

20th May.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

W. JACKSON v. A. PREDDLE.

Walter Jackson, manager of Bell's Asbestos Agency, brought an action against A. Preddle, manager of the East Point Dairy Farm, to recover a bull terrier dog and \$50 damages for illegal detention.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson) appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. J. Hastings for the defendant.

Mr. Slade said the plaintiff was in the habit of breeding bull terriers and the dog in respect to which this action was brought was one of a litter of nine and was born last April twelve months. The dog was the only one which was kept and in January last he went astray. About a fortnight ago plaintiff was riding a horse at the Happy Valley when he saw his dog in the company of a man named Touleman. Plaintiff said "That is my dog." Touleman said "Oh, no, it is not; I bought it from a soldier." Plaintiff replied "It is my dog all the same; I recognise the mark on the root of the tail. The horse knows the dog and the dog knows the horse." Touleman then said "I believe it is your dog and I am willing to give it to you back, but I have given it away." Plaintiff said "Very well, you will let the man know." The result of this meeting was that plaintiff communicated with the defendant, who had the dog, and asked him to return it. Defendant refused and later the plaintiff went down to the East Point Dairy Farm, where the defendant was engaged, and asked him for the dog. The request was refused and plaintiff said he would put the matter into the hands of the police. Afterwards the plaintiff again saw the dog in the house and called him "Dick" and the dog came out like a shot. Plaintiff called him "Dick" and the defendant called him "Joe." The result of the defendant's refusal to return the dog was that plaintiff put the matter into the hands of his solicitor.

Plaintiff was then called and he said that he recognized the dog (which was produced in court) by a black spot at the root of his tail and a scar on the shoulder. His horse also recognized the dog at the Happy Valley. As a rule the horse hit an unknown dog with his foot, but on this occasion he smelt Dick and put his head down and stroked the dog's back.

In answer to Mr. Hastings plaintiff said he was sure that he lost the dog in January last. He would be surprised if Captain Touleman had had the dog in his possession since December last.

The defence was that the dog was not one of the litter belonging to the plaintiff.

After hearing a considerable amount of evidence his Lordship gave a verdict for the defendant with costs.

Among the passengers leaving Shanghai by the *Coromandel* on the 15th May, says the *N. C. Daily News*, was Mr. A. Wasserfall, who was formerly captain of the German Company of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps. A guard of honour of about 30 men, under Lieut. Beck and Rohde, were drawn up on the P. and O. jetty to accord military honours to their ex-captain, who is proceeding to Hongkong by the *Coromandel*, and from thence to Europe by the *Prinz Heinrich*. Mr. Wasserfall has left China permanently, intending to join the Hamburg house of Messrs. Siemssen & Co., whose manager in Shanghai he has been for some time. He has been very popular both with his own countrymen and foreigners of English and other nationalities, and the cheers which were given him as the tender cast off from the pontoon but faintly expressed the esteem in which he has been held.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on Thursday afternoon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon) presided, and there were also present Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of the Police), Hon. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting and of the special meeting were read and confirmed.

PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

From April 28th to May 4th, inclusive, there were 58 cases of plague in Formosa and 47 deaths.

PLAGUE IN MACAO.

On the 24th April Mr. Herbert Goffe, Acting Vice-Consul at Macao, wrote stating that a few cases of bubonic plague had occurred at the Italian Convent. On the 5th May he wrote stating that the plague was gradually dying out, there being from time to time only a few sporadic cases. The general health of the colony was good and the death rate normal. On the 10th May Mr. Goffe reported that the *Official Gazette* gave 37 deaths from bubonic plague during the month of April, and on the 13th May he reported that bubonic plague still existed in Macao to a small extent, a few cases occurring daily; but there were no signs of any marked increase.

The following minutes were appended.—

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I do not quite understand why we have not advised proclamation of Macao and medical inspection of vessels arriving from there.

The COLONIAL SURGEON—As the information we have on the 5th inst. is that there are only a few sporadic cases occurring, I do not advise proclamation of Macao at present. If the cases should increase in number this will be necessary. Two or three members thought it would be better if figures could be obtained.

The PRESIDENT—"A few cases" is rather indefinite and it would be better if we had figures.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—You can never get the truth from Macao. In 1895, when they had plague, they denied it right up to the very end. They said there was no plague in the city. No more there was in the old Portuguese City except in a very small portion of what you might call the Portuguese quarters. The native city is really outside the Portuguese city and it was full of plague patients. And they went on telling this white lie.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Do you think if anyone went over there we could get definite information?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—He could get it at the hospital.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Would they allow him to go there?

The PRESIDENT—He would have considerable difficulty because Dr. Lawson had some difficulty.

Mr. EDE—If the Consul asked the Government I think they would allow a man to go into the hospital.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—It might be tried any way.

Mr. EDE—In the meantime we might ask the Consul to furnish reliable data.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I propose that the Consul be asked to furnish figures and that the Government be asked to send a medical man to visit Macao.

Mr. EDE seconded.

Carried.

Mr. EDE said the letter ought to be worded very carefully, but doubtless the Secretary would attend to that.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—You might send the medical man first. (Laughter.)

DR. CHUNG'S VISIT TO THE MAINLAND.

Two reports were laid on the table from Dr. Chung, who visited Shun Tak and Tungkun with a view to ascertaining if there was any truth about the rumour that plague was epidemic there. His reports were most satisfactory and showed that practically there was no plague in the places he had visited.

ACTING VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

Inspector Fisher, who is acting for the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, reported that during the quarter ended 31st March two cases of rinderpest had occurred in a cattle shed at East Point. Immediately the disease was discovered the cattle affected were slaughtered and buried.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

For the week ended the 8th May the death rate was 19.6 per 1,000 per annum, as against 27.9 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 15th May the rate was 18.9, as compared with 28.7 for the corresponding period of last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until next Thursday.

IMPORTANT COURT-MARTIAL.

A SERGEANT CHARGED WITH ACCEPTING FEES.

INTERESTING DISCLOSURES.

On Saturday morning a court-martial was held at the Garrison Library to enquire into charges brought against Sergeant Fretter, D. Company, West Yorkshire Regiment. The Court was composed of Major Hanham, R.A. (President), Captain Mould, R.E., and Lieutenant Ingpen, W.Y.R.

The charges were (1) taking a fee in respect of the sale of merchandise brought in a barrack in which prisoner had authority, and (2) being guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Lieutenant A. F. Stewart, W.Y.R. (Adjutant), prosecuted, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., defended the prisoner.

Considerable interest was taken in the proceedings, several of the officers of the West Yorkshire Regiment being present.

On the Court being opened Mr. Francis objected to the form in which the charge was made. He said he was entitled to so object under the provisions of section 32 of the rules of procedure, which read—"The prisoner, when required to plead to any charge, may object to the charge on the ground that it does not disclose an offence under the Army Act or is not in accordance with these rules." Under Section 40 of the Army Act no charge could be made of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline if the first offence charged was in violation of any specific provision in the Act or in the rules. The first charge made against the prisoner was for a specific offence under Section 23 of the Army Act and therefore no charge of the character contained in the second charge was admissible.

The President said the first charge was made under Section 23 and the second charge was an alternative one made under Section 40. If the first charge was proved then the prisoner would not be found guilty of the second charge.

Lieutenant Stewart also pointed out that Section 6 of the rules provided for the framing of two or more alternative charges.

The Court conferred in private and on proceedings being resumed the President announced that the Court over-ruled the objection.

Lieutenant Stewart then opened the case for the prosecution and referred to Section 4 of the Rules for Regimental and Garrison Institutes, 1896, which prohibited managers of canteens, grocery shops, and coffee rooms from taking, either directly or indirectly, any personal interest in purchases, sales, or profits, or any advantage arising out of waste or perquisites of any kind whatever. He hoped to be able to prove that the prisoner, while acting as manager of the canteen, did receive money, thus causing him to have an interest in the purchases, sales, or profits.

Evidence was then called.

Herbert Grant Smith, clerk in the employ of Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co., said—Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co. are the agents for the Castle Bellingham Brewery. Acting under instructions I paid to Sergeant Fretter, the prisoner, the sum of \$75.50. It was given to him, I believe, as an old custom.

Mr. Francis—Only tell us what you know of your own knowledge.

Witness—I had orders to give the money to the prisoner.

Mr. Francis—Were those orders in writing? Witness—Yes.

Mr. Francis—I must object to any evidence as to what he recollects about the contents of a written document.

Lieutenant Stewart—The witness is on his oath.

The President—I do not think it is necessary to have the written orders. This witness states he gave money for certain purposes.

Mr. Francis—A Court-martial is required by the Army Act to observe all the rules of evidence which are in force in criminal courts, and according to those rules no witness is at liberty to state what he has learnt from the perusal of a document without producing the document. The rule is that the best evidence shall be produced, and the best evidence here is the document.

Witness—I could produce the document, but acting under orders from my senior I did not bring it. The letter is confidential.

Mr. Francis—There is no such thing as a confidential letter in a court of law.

The President then wrote a request to Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co., asking them to let the witness produce the document, and witness left the court to fetch it.

Major E. C. Mills was then called. He said—When Major Grant Dalton went on leave I took over the duties of canteen president and settled up the accounts for April. There was some delay in receiving the brewer's bill. I went to Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co., the brewer's agents, and while there saw their books. I noticed a letter—

Mr. Francis objected to any statement as to what Major Mills saw in the books or in the letter unless they were produced.

Witness—In consequence of what I saw I made certain enquiries and a paper was handed to me which I now produce. It is a receipted bill from Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co. paying to the canteen manager £7 11s. for looking after the barrels of stout and beer. It is signed by the prisoner. I at once reported the matter to the General Officer Commanding and he gave directions that Sergeant Fretter should be placed under arrest. Sergeant Fretter has been the manager of the canteen since the Regiment came to Hongkong. I am not aware that he had any authority or permission to receive money from the brewers. I believe the manager is prohibited by the regulations to be directly or indirectly interested in the sales. Certain account books were kept in the canteen. The regulations provide that no percentage or direct or indirect advantage shall be received from the contractors and that if in exceptional circumstances any money is received on liquor or for articles it should be clearly shown in the accounts.

Mr. Francis—When did Major Grant Dalton go on leave?

Witness—On the 29th April.

Mr. Francis—When did Colonel Gordon go away?

The President—There is nothing about Colonel Gordon here.

Mr. Francis—I am at liberty to cross-examine on any subject. I am not confined to the evidence at all.

The President—There is nothing here about Colonel Gordon.

Mr. Francis—You are bound to observe all the rules of evidence that are applicable in the regular course.

The President—If it has a direct bearing I will take the question.

Mr. Francis—I shall not ask any question unless it has a direct bearing.

At this point Major Mills spoke in a whisper to the President.

Mr. Francis—I must object to Major Mills while a witness communicating with the Court in that way.

The President—Major Mills has asked me if he is obliged to answer that question.

Mr. Francis—If anything is said I must hear it.

The President—He merely asked me a question which is perfectly allowable.

Mr. Francis—It is perfectly allowable if I hear it.

The President—I will write everything down and then read it over to you.

Mr. Francis—I must hear it first in order that I may take any objection should it be necessary.

The President—I am very sorry if you cannot hear every word.

Mr. Francis—Then I must call upon you to ask Major Mills to speak sufficiently loud to be heard all over the room.

Witness—Colonel Gordon left last Tuesday week.

Mr. Francis—After his departure you became commanding officer?

Witness—Yes.

Did you continue as canteen president after you became commanding officer?—Yes.

Did you go to Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co. after Colonel Gordon left?—I went there at 11.30 in the morning and Colonel Gordon left at 12 o'clock.

Had you any idea in your own mind when you went there that day that payments had been made by the Castle Bellingham Brewery, or was it quite a new discovery to you?—It was quite a new discovery to me that the canteen sergeant was receiving money.

Was it quite a new discovery that any one else besides the canteen sergeant was receiving money from the Brewery?—I was aware that the Castle Bellingham Brewery allowed £2 a month discount, which was shown in the accounts.

For how many months was it shown?—Since the new regulations came out; it has been shown for two months. The new rules came into force in February.

When were these regulations received in the Regiment? They were received in Gibraltar. Since I became commanding officer I have drawn attention to some of the regulations.

Had attention been called to these new rules and regulations before you did it on the 10th May?—I am only a subordinate—

You are an officer who has been in the Regiment since July last and you must know what is in orders and what is not. As an officer in the Regiment, has your attention been called to the existence of these amended rules and regulations by any regimental orders, as far as you remember?—I believe so.

Were these orders put into force as soon as the circular was received concerning them?—They were not.

Do you know where the contract with the Castle Bellingham Brewery was made?—No.

Do you know that, contrary to the orders, the contract was not made here? Is there not a precise regulation that contracts for malt liquor shall be made after the arrival at the station?—Yes.

Have you not, as canteen president, made yourself acquainted with the contract?—I remember there was one contract made, but it was for a continuation of the supply.

Where?—At Gibraltar. They were asked how much they would supply it for at Hong-kong.

Have you, according to the regulations, gone direct to Holliday, Wise and Co. and given the order in person?

The President—That means that the officer shall sign the order.

Mr. Francis—It is very funny English, then. The regulation says "Every order shall be given direct."

Witness—It is the custom for the officer to write out the order on a counterfoil, sign it, and then dispatch it.

Is there a paragraph which states that all contracts shall contain a stipulation that no direct advantage shall be given to any person or institution, and has that clause been included in the contracts?—There is a paragraph, but I cannot say whether it has been observed.

Is it not a fact that the canteen manager has been allowed to give orders himself verbally and direct without a written order from an officer?—I do not know. I am under the impression that I gave all orders in writing as President or as a member of the Canteen Committee.

Have Rules 16 and 17 with reference to the method by which money is to be received been observed?—No.

Did you write out a cheque for \$150 payable to order?—Yes.

Was that while Sergeant Fretter was still manager of the canteen and before he was threatened with arrest?—I think it was.

Did you not draw that cheque on the 10th May and post-date to the 11th, and give it to Sergeant Fretter on the 10th?—I do not remember what the day of the month was.

Did you not take a cheque out one day and date it the next day?—I may have mistaken the day of the month.

You received the money in three different sums—\$70, \$25, and another small amount. On what day did you receive the first sum?—Three or four days before I gave him the cheque. I gave him a receipt each time.

You knew when you received it that it was canteen money?

The President—Mr. Francis, is it any use asking these questions? I cannot see what it has to do with the case.

Mr. Francis—Did Sergeant Fretter, when you gave him the receipt, ask you to endorse it?

Witness—No.

Was this cheque on your own private account or on the canteen fund?—Private account.

Did you want the money for your private use or for canteen purposes?—For my private use.

The President—Mr. Francis, you are again taking up the time of the Court; the question is quite immaterial.

Mr. Francis—It simply shows that he disobeyed the regulations. It is not for you to decide whether the questions are immaterial. I think it necessary to ask these questions.

The President—I do not think it does the prisoner any good.

Mr. Francis—That is in my discretion and not yours. (To Witness). Had you, at the time you gave that cheque, sufficient money in your private account to meet it?

Witness—I believe so.

Is that all you can say?

The President—I think that is sufficient, Mr. Francis.

Mr. Francis—Did you tell Sergeant Fretter when you asked him to endorse it that you had not enough money in the bank to meet it?

Witness—No.

Anything like it?—No.

Can you tell me what became of the £2 monthly paid by the Castle Bellingham Brewery before March and April—before the arrival of the new accounts?—I think it was paid over to the commanding officer.

Do you know how it was dealt with and what became of it? Was it carried into the canteen account?—I think it was spent for the benefit of the men in the Regiment—entirely for the Regiment.

Was not the receipt of it in direct violation of these rules?

The President—Major Mills was not in command then.

Witness—I think it would come under the heading of "exceptional circumstances" mentioned in the rules.

Mr. Francis—Can you state the exceptional circumstances which justified the receipt of £2.

The witness was not heard to answer this question.

You have been adjutant of a Regiment?—Yes.

Do you not know of your own personal knowledge that it has been the custom for the commanding officer, the canteen president, and other persons in the Regiment to receive certain funds, or bonuses, or allowances, or discounts, or whatever you like to call them, from the persons supplying the Regiment with malt liquor?—I can only say no. I have never received anything as canteen president and I know Major Dalton has not.

Do you know it has been the custom to make similar payments?—What payments?

Payments, cumshaws, discounts, such payments as are forbidden by these regulations. Do you not know that it has been the custom and that these regulations were framed to meet it?—I was never aware that the canteen president, or the commanding officer, or the president ever received sums of money from the persons supplying malt liquor beyond the £2 received from the Castle Bellingham Brewery.

You were canteen president for a short time in December last?—For a few days.

Did you take any steps then to enforce these new regulations?

The President—It is not customary for an officer temporarily in command to put new regulations into force.

Mr. Francis—When did you first read these rules and regulations?

Witness—I saw these rules before they were framed.

They were not rules before they were framed. When did you first read them after they were issued authoritatively?—I read them at Gibraltar.

Can you say positively whether there was or was not a copy of these rules among the canteen papers?—I saw a copy in the drawer when I took over Major Dalton's office.

The canteen books and accounts were kept, when Major Dalton transacted the canteen business, in the quartermaster's office in Murray Barracks, and you have transacted business in that same office and not in the canteen itself?—I have been in the canteen.

You have not transacted the business in the canteen, but in the quartermaster's office?—Yes. May I ask why you thought it necessary to issue orders calling attention to these particular rules and regulations?—It is customary to publish the orders for information.

Was it not because you knew they had not been called attention to before?—I published them as a reminder.

Was it not because you knew they had not been published in orders before?—No.

Was it not on the same day that Colonel Gordon left that you went to Holliday, Wise & Co.?—I had been there previously.

Yes, but the day on which you saw this particular letter?—Yes.

Did you go simply for the purpose of asking for the brewer's bill or for what purpose?

The President—He has already stated that he went there because the brewer did not send in his bill.

Mr. Francis—Did you not go for the special purpose of making enquiry into this matter to find out whether any payments were or were not being made?

Witness—No, I went to pay the bill.

Did you go there to enquire into this particular matter and to see whether payments were or were not made?—No, certainly not. I do not exactly remember why I went.

Is it not correct, as you said in the first instance, that you went there because the bills had not been sent in?

The President—I do not think it is any use asking further questions about that.

Mr. Francis—Whom did you see when you went there?—I saw Mr. Ross.

Was not the first question you asked Mr. Ross whether the Castle Bellingham Brewery were or were not in the habit of making payments in connection with the malt liquor supplied?—I am not aware that that was the first question.

Did you not while you were there ask some question to that effect?—I may have done.

And was it not entirely in consequence of a question to that effect that this letter and the receipt and the books were shown to you?—I asked about the discount.

Did you ask about payments to any other people, or was your question solely confined to the commanding officer's discount?—Solely confined to the commanding officer's discount.

How came Mr. Ross to show this alleged confidential letter?—He took up the authority for this discount.

Has any discount been paid for the month of April?—Yes.

Did you ask for this discount to be paid to you then?—Yes.

Will you state the special circumstances which justified you in asking for and receiving it under clause 7 of the regulations?—It was recorded in the previous month's account and I imagined I was carrying out what had been the custom before.

If you imagined it was correct you could not have read these rules?—I had to carry out what my predecessor had done before me.

Mr. Francis—In spite of Her Majesty's regulations?

The President—He had only been there a day.

Mr. Francis—He went down to Holliday, Wise and Co. before the Colonel was out of the colony and got the money. (To witness). Had you any reason for looking so closely into this matter at that time?

Witness—The price of beer and stout has been so high in the canteen that we have had to sell it almost without any profit. Other canteens have had to raise the price of beer supplied to the men. We did not want to do so and we told the brewer that we should very probably have to leave him and get a cheaper price for beer if his price continued high. We talked over the matter and went into the thing, and when I saw these percentages were paid without being put to the profit of the canteen, I knew that would account for the profit—4 per cent.—being so low that the concern could hardly be run. That was my sole reason.

You had that matter in your mind when you went to Holliday, Wise and Co. P.—These reasons have been growing in my mind since I had a conversation with the commanding officer some time ago.

Then you went to Holliday, Wise and Co. for the purpose of enquiry into the cause of the beer being so dear?—No, not exactly into the cause.

Then what was the precise reason for going to Holliday, Wise and Co. P.—My memory is coming back, and I think I went to pay the bill on that occasion.

And to get the discount?—Not necessarily.

Do you remember paying the bills yourself when you were canteen president in December?—I do not remember.

Do you remember giving any instructions to the canteen manager with reference to A Choo, the tobaccoist?—No.

Do you remember going yourself to A Choo and paying a bill for \$23?—Yes.

Did you ask A Choo for any commission or discount on the amount you paid in?—I asked if they paid any discount and he replied no.

You had a cigar from him? (Laughter.)—No.

Did you direct the canteen manager to change the tobaccoist, as A Choo paid no discount?—No.

Do you not know that the tobaccoist was changed immediately?—I do not know that he was changed immediately.

Does A Choo supply the tobacco now?—I find it is somebody else who supplies it. He is cheaper than the previous man.

Did you see Sergeant Fretter in his quarters after he was placed under arrest?—Yes.

You asked him if he had received the \$75.50?—I do not think I did.

What were you there for at all?—I went to see if the canteen had been handed over to the other man.

Did you ask him if he received the money? The President—He says he thinks he did not.

Mr. Francis—Such an answer is an absurdity. Witness—I cannot remember.

Did you ask the question of Sergeant Fretter at any time?—I do not think I did.

Did you hear Sergeant Fretter say at any time that he had never known of any regulations forbidding the receipt of money?—Fretter told me he had never seen that book.

Did he not say that he never knew of any regulations forbidding the receipt of money?—I think he did.

Re-examined by Lieutenant Stewart—With reference to the cheque for \$150, did you receive the cash from the prisoner?

Witness—Part of it.

Was the prisoner or you responsible for the canteen cash?—I, as president.

Are you responsible for any canteen money that may be in the canteen manager's hands?—Yes.

As canteen president do you consider that the prisoner comes under Rule 4?—Yes.

Is it usual for anybody taking over charge of the Regimental Institute to make himself acquainted with the regulations?—Certainly. Any person taking over a new duty should make himself acquainted with all pertaining to it.

The Court then adjourned until the 25th May.

25TH MAY.

Herbert Grant Smith, who was the first witness on Saturday, was re-called.

The President said he would treat the witness as if he had not been called before.

The witness then repeated the evidence he gave on Saturday to the effect that, acting under instructions from Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co., he handed the prisoner \$75.50

and obtained a receipt from him. Witness understood it was the custom of some brewers to pay money to the canteen sergeant as a remuneration for looking after and tapping the beer. This was work which the brewer's agents were supposed to do.

Mr. Francis—You had an order on Saturday last to produce a certain letter. Have you got it?

Witness—Yes, I produce it.

From whom is that letter?—From the Castle Bellingham Brewery to Holliday, Wise and Co., dated 9th February, 1897.

The letter was then read. It gave instructions to Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co. to pay to the canteen sergeant certain sums for looking after the liquor. This letter was not signed and it was not admitted as evidence.

Two other letters were read which referred to the deliveries to be made by the Brewery and these documents were attached to the proceedings.

The President—Had you any other definite orders with respect to these payments besides the letters?

Witness—No.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Francis said he did not propose to call any witnesses.

Lieutenant Stewart intimated that he had no remarks to make on the evidence.

Mr. Francis then addressed the Court as follows—I ask leave in the first place to call the attention of the Court to the paragraph in the regulations with reference to the question of the prisoner being guilty or not guilty, which shows that it is often advisable for the prisoner to plead not guilty with a view of calling witnesses in extenuation of the offence or in mitigation of punishment. I wish also to call attention to the fact that by these regulations the prisoner is at liberty to question the motives of those bringing the charge and even to show that others have been guilty of the offence and that in so doing he is justified in bringing out anything tending to mitigate the character of the offence or in mitigation of punishment. The offence with which the prisoner in this case stands charged, apart from the form of the charge, is that he received money in disobedience of a prohibition contained in section 4 of the rules for the management of Garrison Institutes, 1896. Of course it is clear that the prisoner received the sum of \$75.50 from Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co., and that Holliday, Wise and Co. are the agents of the Castle Bellingham Brewery, who supply the Regimental canteen with malt liquor. As the result of these two facts two charges have been put against him, one that he has violated section 23 of the Army Act, and the other that he has violated section 40, the violation being of course disobedience of War Office regulations. And undoubtedly if his act does not fall under the specific provisions of section 23 it comes under section 40 as a disobedience of the regulation. I submit in the first place that section 23 refers to a particular class of persons of which Sergeant Fretter is not one. He is not a person who, in respect of this particular matter, has any command or authority whatever. The offence constituted by section 23 is when anyone having any command or authority either takes the "squeeze" out of anything or is directly interested in anything that is bought or sold in any place where he has command or authority. In this case, under the regulations, the manager of the canteen is a mere steward; he has no command or authority in any way in respect to this liquor. Section 4 describes him as a steward acting under authority. He has nothing to do with the selection of the brewers who are to supply, as the commanding officer alone makes the contracts. The Committee and sub-Committee give all orders as to the quantity and quality of the liquors to be supplied and they alone have the power to reject or accept. The clause points to a person who, having authority to order or to accept or reject, either insists upon a payment for the benefit of himself before he gives an order, or having the power of accepting or rejecting is himself interested in having the particular goods either accepted or rejected. I submit, therefore, that section 23 does not affect Sergeant Fretter, because, however much it may be said that, as a sergeant, he has com-

mand of authority, it is not command or authority with respect to the supply or sale of malt liquor, and the section contemplates command or authority. If a private were appointed manager of the canteen he would have no more command or authority in respect to the sale of malt liquor than Sergeant Fretter had. With reference to the charge under section 40, which is, as I said before, a charge of disobedience of an order contained in the regulations, I submit there can be no disobedience where there is no knowledge or no proof that the order was ever given or communicated to the prisoner. It is essential for the prosecution to prove all the necessary elements of the offence and when an order is communicated to an officer or man it is absolutely necessary that the order should be proved before he can be convicted of disobedience of that order. Before a man can be convicted of a disobedience of a verbal order it must be shown that there was a specific command given to an individual. It is a fundamental principle of all law that it must be promulgated and made public in some way or at least communicated to the individual. A proof of knowledge of the rule or order is, I submit, essential. Now in this case, not only is there no proof that this order was ever published or promulgated or made known to the prisoner individually, but there is a considerable amount of evidence that he never saw it or had the opportunity of seeing it. His commanding officer, Major Mills, expressed his opinion in the concluding sentence of his evidence that Sergeant Fretter had not had an opportunity of seeing the War Office circular. It is clear, I submit, that no notification was issued that such a circular had been received by the Regiment; it was never put in regimental orders, which might have enabled Sergeant Fretter to make enquiries about it. It is also clear on the evidence that the circular never was in fact brought into operation in the Regiment at all by anyone. It contains provisions which, if put into operation when received by the Regiment in Gibraltar would have prevented payments ever having been offered. The circular requires that all contracts for malt liquor shall be made after the arrival at the station, that the contract itself, when made, shall bind the persons supplying not to make any payments whatever to anyone. It provides that no discounts shall be received except under exceptional circumstances; that no money shall be received by the canteen manager, but shall be taken direct from the tills by the President or some member of the Committee, and that all moneys for change shall be provided by a cheque from the President. Now it is clear, I submit, that none of these regulations were ever put in force or acted upon, and that the former customs were continued. The contracts for the supply signed in Gibraltar contained no stipulations as required by the regulations. Major Mills himself received a discount on the same day Sergeant Fretter was arrested and he stated no exceptional circumstances to justify his receipt of it, except that his predecessor in command had done the same. It is clear that the regulations were not put in force in the regiment with reference to the receipt or handling of moneys in the canteen. I recognise and admit that it is no justification for any man charged with an offence to allege that others have been guilty of similar offences; I am only calling attention to these facts to show that the provisions of this circular have never been put in orders or attempted to be put in force in this Regiment, whatever were the reasons, or these things could not possibly have gone on. I submit, further, that even if Sergeant Fretter had by chance seen the regulations he could not, under the circumstances, have supposed that they were in force in the Regiment, as they have never been put in orders nor acted upon by anyone. I call attention to the fact, which will be stated by Sergeant Fretter, that the manager of the canteen was formerly a pensioner and that there was no one here from whom he took over the duties of canteen manager. Considering his position, with a Committee and a Sub-Committee over him, it was not for him to enquire what the duties were; but it was for his superiors to communicate to him in some way what those duties were, especially as they were embodied in regulations recently

issued. I submit that, as a matter of military knowledge, a Sergeant of the Regiment outside the orderly room has no means of knowing the issue of the War Office regulations unless they are made public. Only three or four copies as a rule arrive for the use of the Regiment. They are not put on the file in the sergeant's mess, or in any place where a sergeant has access and where he can inspect them at his leisure, and that such orders, as these are addressed to commanding officers only, to be by them promulgated. Sergeant Fretter denies positively that he had ever seen or read this circular until after his arrest; he did not know that it was contrary to regulations to take money. I submit that he had as much right to take this money as Major Mills had to take the discount. It is clear that a customary payment has been made by the brewers and that he had never been told that it was forbidden to take it. I submit, lastly, that it is not such a payment as is contemplated in this fourth section. It is expressly stated by Mr. H. Grant Smith, and it appears from the letters that have been put in, that this payment is for work done by the canteen manager for the Brewers' agents which they would have to pay somebody else to do if the manager did not do it. It is not a personal interest in purchases, or sales, or profits. Sergeant Fretter does not purchase, and has nothing to do with the purchases, neither does he control the supply or the quality or the times of purchases. All orders are given, independently of him by a Committee, of which he forms no part. These payments were directed to be made by the Brewers' agents whether there were profits or losses on the sales. I admit it may be very highly desirable that all and every payment of this description should be put a stop to, but it is clear that they have been customary and that no one in receipt of them knew it was wrong, and it was never brought to Sergeant Fretter's knowledge that these payments had been expressly forbidden. I submit there can be no culpability in the absence of knowledge. Here knowledge has not been shown by the prosecution and the defence has shown beyond reasonable doubt that the prisoner had no knowledge of the orders. In conclusion, I submit that no charge has been made out under section 23, as Sergeant Fretter was canteen manager and was not, in respect to the supply of liquors for the canteen, a person in command or authority. As to the second charge the only misconduct alleged is that of having taken the \$75. I submit that money so taken was money received for work done and did not give him a personal interest in purchases, sales, or profits and therefore does not come within the prohibition in paragraph 4 of the War Office circular. I submit that if this honourable Court should be of opinion that this payment did come within these words and was of such a character as to give Sergeant Fretter a personal interest in the purchases, sales, or profits, he did not know it was prohibited and that therefore he was not culpable in taking money. I submit, finally, that if this honourable Court should on the whole case think it right to find the prisoner guilty, which I again respectfully submit it ought not to do, all the attendant circumstances are such that the prisoner's guilt is very slight and that any sentence which the Court may think fit to pass should be of the very mildest description and might well be accompanied by the strongest possible recommendation for a remission of that punishment. The object for which these proceedings were initiated will be fully accomplished by the trial of the prisoner and the publicity given to the regulations. The fault, if fault there is, rests with others than the prisoner.

The prisoner then put in the following written statement—I desire to make a statement. I was appointed canteen manager on the arrival of the battalion in Hongkong. A pensioner was formerly canteen manager, but he was not there when I arrived and I did not take over the duties from anybody. I never had anything to do with canteen duties before. I never saw or heard of the War Office circular of July, 1896, until these proceedings commenced. They have never been put in orders or referred to by anyone until after my arrest. When I received from Holliday, Wise and Co. the sum of \$75.50 I did not know I was doing

wrong or disobeying any regulations. I had no reason to think I was committing any offence.

Lieutenant Stewart was about to reply on the whole case when Mr. Francis objected. The prisoner had not called witnesses and therefore the prosecutor had no right of reply. The objection was upheld.

The Court was then cleared.

After two or three minutes' deliberation the Court found the prisoner guilty.

Lieutenant Stewart was then sworn and said that the prisoner had been charged twice before, once with drunkenness and the second time with neglect of duty. On each occasion he was reprimanded.

The sentence on the prisoner was promulgated on the 27th May, and was that he be reduced to the rank of Corporal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—With regard to the late Court-martial on Sergeant Fretter, of the West Yorkshire Regiment, reported at length in your valuable columns, I would ask you to kindly make the following corrections on behalf of Messrs. Holliday, Wise & Co., and Mr. Ross, which latter gentleman is at present absent from the colony.

Firstly.—Major Mills was under a misapprehension in stating he saw Mr. Ross, as this gentleman was never interviewed in the matter.

Secondly.—Major Mills misunderstood the nature of the documents he saw as he was merely shown—under exceptional circumstances—the copies of the accounts made out for payment of remuneration of services, allowance to officers' fund, &c., and was told these allowances were customary.—Thanking you in anticipation, I am yours truly, C. H. THOMPSON.

Hongkong, 27th May, 1897.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

THE MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

Mr. W. Danby, Chairman of the sub-committee having charge of the musical part of the programme for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, has sent us a circular which has been addressed to the musical members of the community requesting their co-operation. The chorus is expected to number 300 voices, and the united Bands about 100 instruments. As it is more than probable that there are many ladies and gentlemen in the colony (it being impossible to know them all) who can sing and would be willing to take part in this performance who have not received a circular, if such would kindly send in their names to any of the musical conductors, the Committee would be exceedingly obliged for their assistance on the occasion. So far everyone is working most harmoniously together, and with great enthusiasm, all the principal musicians having made up their minds that the function shall be a great success.

The pieces proposed to be sung at Happy Valley on the 22nd June, immediately after the Review, are (1st) Hymn, "Praise the Lord for he is Glorious"—3 verses, to the tune of "Austria," to be sung in unison by the whole assembly, accompanied by the Bands; (2nd) Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," by full Choir and Band; (3rd) "God Save the Queen,"—four verses, first verse in harmony by choir and band, second verse ladies' voices only, third verse men's voices only, fourth verse in unison, by the whole assembly, with bands, drums, &c.

Short preliminary practices will be held by the following gentlemen, at the places and dates named, commencing each day at 5.30 p.m.:—Mr. C. Schwencke, at the German Club, on Mondays, May 31st and June 7th; Signor Cattaneo, at the Lusitano Club, on Tuesdays, June 1st and June 8th; Mr. A. G. Ward, at the City Hall, on Wednesdays, June 2nd and June 9th; Mr. G. Grimble, at the Union Church, on Thursdays, June 3rd and June 10th. Combined practices of all the voices will be held in the Theatre of the City Hall, at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday, June 12th; Thursday, June 17th; and Saturday, June 19th; and also a full Rehearsal with the Bands, &c., in the Race Stand (which will be enlarged for the occasion), on Monday, the 21st June, at 5.30 p.m. (sharp) under Mr. W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M.

THE JUBILEE GYMKHANA MEETING.

The following is the programme of the Jubilee Gymkhana meeting to be held on the 23rd June, the first event taking place at 4 o'clock:—

THE DIAMOND CUP, presented by the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, five furlongs; second pony two-thirds of entries, third pony one-third entries. For Subscription Griffins of 1896-97 and other ponies which have never won a race at a race meeting and have been in the colony over two months; weight for inches with 3 lbs. added. Subn. Griffins being non winners at a race meeting allowed 7 lbs. Entrance \$3.

BICYCLE RACE, (the "Dragon Cup"), presented by Messrs. Williams, Gibson & Co., open to all cyclists who have never won a race (except school races); 1½ miles; second prize two-thirds of entries; third prize one-third entries. Entrance \$3.

THE CHAIRMEN'S CUP, presented by the Hon. C. P. Chater; second pony two-thirds and third pony one-third of entries; once round course; handicap for all China ponies. Entrance \$4.

MENAGERIE RACE; entrance free; post entries; 1st prize, \$15; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$5.

THE POLO PONY CUP, presented by R. M. Gray, Esq.; to start at the winning post, round a post at entrance to straight, and home; for *bona fide* polo ponies, to be ridden by playing members of the Polo Club; catch weights over 11st 7lbs.; second pony two-thirds of entries; third pony one-third of entries. Entrance \$3.

BICYCLE RACE; cup presented by Chuan Sew, Esq.; open to all cyclists; second prize two-thirds of entries; third, one-third. Entrance \$3. 2 miles.

OBSTACLE RACE FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS; entrance free; post entries; 1st prize, \$15; 2nd, \$10; 3rd, \$5.

JUBILEE CHAMPION CUP; second pony two-thirds of entries; third pony one-third entries; for all China ponies; weight for inches; from the 2 mile post once round and in. Entrance \$5.

N. B.—Entries close to the Hon. Sec. at the Hongkong Club on the 16th June, at 2 p.m.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contributions, viz:—

Already acknowledged	\$35,495
The Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the 1st Battalion The Prince of Wales Own West Yorkshire Regiment	510.92
Yokohama Specie Bank	500
Green Island Cement Co.	250
boat Co. Ltd.	250
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd.	250
Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co.	200
John Walter	200
J. J. dos Remedios & Co.	150
N. Mody & Co.	150
Cawasjee Pallanjee & Co.	150
E. Pabaney	150
Tata & Co.	150
A. Ebrahim & Co.	150
Hongkong Ice Co., Limited	150
Major-General Wilson Black	100
Hajee Adam Esmail	100
E. N. Mehta	100
H. M. H. Nemazee	100
Framjee Hormusjee & Co.	100
P. F. Talati	100
A. & S. Hancock	100
N. J. Ede	100
H. E. Pollock	100
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steam-Geo. R. Stevens	100
Hon. W. Meigh Goodman	100
Herbert Price	100
Noronha & Co.	100
J. Thurburn	100
Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited	100
R. S. Woonwalla & Co. (additional)	75

H. A. Asger & H. Esmail	75
A. M. Essabhoy	75
Fairall & Co.	50
Palmer & Turner	50
Burnie & Goddard	50
Kinghorn & Macdonald	50
Carmichael & Co.	50
More & Seimund	50
W. Brewer & Co.	50
J. L. Chuttoo	50
N. D. Ollia	50
Mehta & Co.	50
Mahomed Haja Essack Elias	50
C. A. Camroodin	50
Lamke & Rogge	50
Erich Georg	50
Surg-Col. Evatt	50
W. J. Saunders	50
W. H. Ray	50
Dinshaw & Co.	50
Col. Elsdale	50
C. D. Wilkinson	50
Dr. Jordan	50
B. Byramjee	50
Rev. R. F. Cobbold	50
Officers Hongkong Regiment	42
Col. E. H. Gorges	30
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	25
T. Sercombe Smith	25
Fletcher & Co.	25
J. M. E. Machado	25
A. S. Gomes	25
Augusto J. do Rozario	25
Francisco A. Gomes	25
Augusto J. Gomes	25
J. J. Leiria	25
M. A. A. Souza	25
Martel & Co.	25
Girault & Co.	25
J. M. Armstrong	25
X. Y. Z.	25
C. Abdoola & Co.	25
A. Esmaljee	25
R. C. Vania	25
H. N. Cooper	25
E. Niedhardt	25
Rev. J. B. Martinet	20
Lient. Col. The O'Gorman	20
Capt. Long	20
Lient. Col. Noel Clarke	20
J. M. S. Alves	15
F. J. V. Jorge	15
J. A. de Carvalho	15
F. D. Guedes	15
C. Danenberg	10
J. M. A. Silva	10
Capt. Mould, R.E.	10
Capt. Carey, R.E.	10
Capt. Langhorne	10
Capt. Thompson	7
Lient. Heaton	7
Lient. Swan	7
Capt. Welman	5
Capt. Trevelyan	5
Lient. Randall, R.E.	5
Lient. Nugent, R.E.	5
Lient. de Vitre, R.E.	5

\$42,363.92

THE GRANITE CHIPPING QUESTION AGAIN.

Granite dressing formed the subject of another case at the Police Court on Saturday (22nd May). The defendant was Kang On, contractor, and he was summoned for dressing granite on the Praya when such dressing could have been executed at the quarry. Mr. Looker defended. P.S. Robertson said on the 18th inst. he saw coolies in the employ of the defendant rough dressing granite near a building which is in course of erection on the Praya near new Pedder's Wharf. In answer to Mr. Looker Robertson said that he knew the Government was rough dressing stones, but the police could not summon the Government. Mr. E. M. Hazeland, of the P.W.D., gave it as his opinion that the stone could have been dressed at the quarry. Mr. Looker said the defendant had been allowed to dress stones in this manner for many years and it was astonishing that the police took such sudden action. His defence was that the stones could not have been dressed at the quarry without rendering them liable to injury. The Magistrate adjourned the case until Thursday in order that some of the stones might be produced.

At the Magistracy on Thursday, before Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, the hearing was resumed of the summons against Kang On for dressing granite on works on the Praya Reclamation when such dressing could have been done at the quarry without rendering the stone liable to injury.

Mr. H. W. Looker appeared for the defendant. Mr. R. K. Leigh, who was called for the defence, said that it was almost a universal practice to do the rough and the fine dressing at the works, both in Government and private works. The method was for the stone to be rough hewn at the quarries and brought to the nearest point of landing on the Praya, where it was landed and carried to the site by coolies. It was almost impossible to bring fine punched granite over from the quarries without injury. There was a very large quantity of granite stone being used in the construction of the buildings on the lots in question and the patterns were of immense variety and required great nicety and precision in the execution of the design. If the stones had been dressed at the quarries they would certainly have been liable to injury in transit and the contractor was justified in thinking that the stones could not have been further dressed at the quarry without running considerable risk in transit. There were plenty of buildings in Hongkong in which the same process of dressing was going on; the Government were erecting several buildings. Almost immediately adjoining this particular property on the Praya Reclamation rough dressing had been going on in a precisely similar manner for five or six years; in fact, in almost every Government work rough dressing was being done on the spot.

By the Magistrate—There was not so much liability to risk in the transit of rough dressed stone. Rough dressing had equally to be done to a gauge as fine dressing, so that if a stone rough dressed was chipped on the corner ever so little no amount of fineness would make that stone of any use. If the stone was packed in straw and cases it could be safely carried, but the expense would be very heavy, so heavy as to be practically prohibitive. Witness had yet to learn that the dressing was a nuisance on this particular work; there were no means of doing it in a quiet way. Such dressing as had been done could not have been done at the quarry without great risk of injury. The stone came from different quarries where there were no masons and no houses.

Mr. Thomas Grimshaw, overseer to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, was then called as a witness for the prosecution and said he had seven years' practical experience of buildings. There were some stones which it would be impossible to dress at the quarry, but there were others which could be done there; it would depend upon the nature of the dressing to be done. He agreed in the main with Mr. Leigh's evidence, but he could not agree with all of it. The stones used in Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's new building were fine dressed at the quarries; one of the quarries was at Samshui and the other at Hongham. The stones were transported in the usual way, being cased with wood, and none of them were injured. In regard to some of the stones referred to in this case it would depend upon the end for which they were intended as to whether they could be dressed at the quarry and transported without risk of injury. The mere fact of dressing stone at all rendered the stone more liable to injury than it was before it was dressed.

The Magistrate said that on the evidence of the two witnesses called that day there was sufficient authority for the contractor to carry on dressing at the work instead of at the quarry. The Ordinance said "when such dressing could have been executed at the quarry without rendering the granite or other stone liable to injury during its transport to the place where it was required for use." The overseer said that the mere fact of dressing rendered the stone liable to injury. Under these circumstances his Worship was of opinion that the dressing can be carried on at the works instead of at the quarry. The summons would therefore be dismissed.

There was also a similar summons against Chan A-tong, contractor, and this was also dismissed.

TWO FIRES IN HONGKONG.

A CLEAR CASE OF ARSON.

At 1.45 on Friday morning there was a fire at a cigar shop at 231, Queen's Road Central. There is not a shadow of doubt that the outbreak was due to a most daring act of incendiarism and it is to be sincerely hoped that the police will be able to bring home the guilt to the offender, whoever he may be, for a clearer case could not be imagined. At present one of the masters of the shop and a boy are under detention pending enquiries which are being made by Inspector Kemp, but at present no formal charge has been made against them. The fire was discovered by Chinese Constable No. 255, who acted in a most commendable manner. He was passing the shop when he heard an unusual noise and on going into the premises he discovered that a bedroom partition was on fire in five different places. The constable, whose action deserves the highest praise, at once took steps to extinguish the fires, which apparently had just been started. He took up a cloth door screen and with the aid of this and some water which was served by one or two other policemen succeeded in very quickly smothering the flames. The alarm of course was given and in a very short time an official inspection was made of the premises. The building consists of two floors and it was found that a partition in the bedroom had been bored in two or three places and kerosine-soaked pieces of paper stuffed into the holes. To further aid the immediate spread of the flames the partition had been smothered with kerosine about four feet above the ground in a manner which indicated that the culprit had taken a tin of kerosine and poured the contents on the wood just as if he was watering plants. Not only that, but the floor was covered with kerosine and a tin containing kerosine was found at the head of the stairs. The stock was worth about \$1,000 and it was insured in the South British Insurance Company for \$4,300.

There was also a fire early on Thursday morning and on this occasion Mr. F. H. May, the Captain Superintendent, narrowly escaped serious injury. The fire was discovered at 1.45 a.m., it having broken out at a paper and cracker shop at 71, Jervois Street. The Fire Brigade turned out promptly, but owing to the highly inflammable nature of the contents of the building, which was a three-storied one and extended into Burd Street, the flames soon obtained a firm hold of the premises, which were gutted. The firemen succeeded in preventing any damage being done to the adjoining houses. The place was insured with Messrs. Turner and Co. in the Northern Assurance Company for \$15,000. During the progress of the fire Mr. May was directing operations on a ladder and as he was descending a considerable quantity of debris fell near him and he just managed to get out of the way, otherwise he must have sustained very nasty injuries.

A. S. WATSON AND CO., LIMITED.

The twelfth annual ordinary general meeting of A. S. Watson and Co., Limited, was held at noon on Saturday at the offices. Mr. H. Buck presided and there were also present—Messrs. A. H. Mancell (Secretary), E. K. Chandler, J. S. Hagen, R. Mitchell, E. W. Terry, and J. P. Thomas.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your permission I will follow the usual custom and consider the report and statement of accounts as read. The General Manager is at present in London, but he has been notified of the proposed distribution of profits and has expressed his approval of the same and satisfaction with the balance sheet generally. As mentioned in the report, we have experienced a reduction of our profits in the Philippine Islands for the year under review. This, however, is not likely to recur in 1897, as our manager at Manila advises us that since February last the business in his charge has materially improved and the returns in some important departments are larger than he has been able to previously record. There is little further for me to add, but, I think, gentlemen, that the continued payment

of a ten per cent. dividend, and the carrying forward to 1897 account of an amount of \$4,000 in excess of the amount carried forward to 1896 account, certainly proves your Company to be in a sound condition; and I am pleased to say its present position and prospects are most satisfactory. I shall be glad to answer any questions in reference to the report and statement of accounts now before you.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. MITCHELL seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the election of Mr. F. Maitland as auditor.

Mr. TERRY seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That, I think, gentlemen, concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be ready on Tuesday, Monday being a Bank Holiday. I may say that I have received a telegram from the General Manager this morning informing me that he has recovered his health. (Applause.) I thank you, gentlemen, for your attendance.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the work carried on at Punjom during the month of April:—

August Shaft—This is now in perfect order, having been thoroughly overhauled and close centred to the 200 feet level. The necessary alterations made to the pump and strong timbers put in place to carry same. Dam built to retain water in level and so keep shaft dry. Sinking was commenced on the 14th of the month, but with slow progress at first. No provision having been made for further sinking when the shaft was last sunk, we had to put in strong supports under our shaft timber.

The ground seems more favourable for sinking below the 200 feet than we experienced in sinking from the 150 feet level down.

The work is carried on continuously from 12 p.m. Sunday night to 12 p.m. Saturday night. Sunk for the month 10 feet 6 inches; total depth 215 feet.

The new landing brace and overhead tramway is completed, enabling us to handle our rock from the shaft to better advantage.

North Shaft.—Not much progress has been made with this. The ground has been hard and difficult for blasting, but I think we are getting into a better channel of ground, but the water has increased a little.

We have had to suspend operations for a time to raise surface of shaft 4 feet to surface level of tram line to battery, and preparatory to erecting head gear for winding purposes. This with the engine should be finished by the 12th of May. Sunk for the month 12 feet; total depth 71 feet 6 inches.

Stopes on the West of New Shaft 200 feet Level.—These have opened out to a large body of ore over 10 feet wide. It is highly mineralized and of average grade, but with the pockets of gold found in these stopes during the month, of four ounces and forty-eight ounces respectively, will bring the average value of this stone to about an ounce to the ton.

The lode is making down very strongly and specimen gold found at the deepest point.

We have sent you a specimen of about 30 lbs. weight from this last pocket of forty-eight ounces.

Stopes on the East and West Lode of 200 feet.—This only gives us a small quantity of average stone. We expect this to improve, however, as we stope up. We are preparing to put a new winze from the 150 feet level down to the stope to give us better means for working same.

Intermediate Level.—The ground is hard here and only slow progress is made with this. The lode is pinched at present, but is changing in appearance and should soon connect with the same run of stone as in our west stopes 200 feet level.

Intermediate Stopes.—The bulk of this stone is only of average grade, but on the 12th of the month we struck a rich pocket of ore of about 2 dwts. of stone which gave us 13 ozs.

of smelted gold. This is the richest pocket yet found, although these pockets are characteristic of the mine.

On the 18th of the month we met with another pocket, which gave us 8 ozs. of smelted gold. This will bring the average value of the stone now from this point to over one ounce per ton.

Stopes at and above the 110 ft. are now communicated with the leader stopes, giving us better ventilation. The stone here is of low grade, but will pay for working, and we have every chance of meeting with small pockets of gold as we stope up.

Goban.—The drive has been driven a distance of 58 ft. from shaft, passing through small veins of quartz but no large body, and seeing that we are only about 40 ft. below surface level I decided to suspend operations for the present and to prepare for the erection of steam pumps.

The lode is well defined and appears to open out larger as depth is attained. The assay value of this lode is 3 dwts. 22 grs. to the ton.

Total drivage for the month at Jalis is 153 feet 6 inches.

Ore mined 434 tons.

Milling.—This was carried on continuously for 29 days, crushing 434 tons from the mine for a yield of 171 ounces and 1,700 tons of headings for a yield of 212 ounces. Milling was again resumed on the 1st prox.

Calcining Works.—These worked full time, treating 50 tons of concentrates for a yield of 49 ounces.

Cyanide Works.—We only received supplies of zinc to allow us to resume work on the 14th inst. This only allowed us 14 days' working, treating 360 tons for a yield of 102 ozs. 8 dwts., valued at £1 10s. 10d. per ounce.

Total returns of gold for the month, 626 ozs. 12 dwts.

Cyanide bullion for the month 102 ozs. 8 dwts.

Headings.—We have very large reserves of these and tram lines are laid in various directions for cheap handling of same. For last month it cost us an average of 18 cents per ton delivered at mill. I estimate the profit won from this to be over \$5,000.

General.—All roads, bridges, dam, water race, and everything under this head are in good repair and will be looked after, and we have a fair stock of firewood at the mines.

Health.—The health of the camp remains good.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 5½ inches.

THE EUREKA AND QUEEN MINES.

We have received from Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, the General Managers, the following report on the Eureka and Queen Mines:—

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Mount Macdonald, 30th April, 1897.

Eureka Mine.—Since last report, the drives at the two levels have been pushed ahead as fast as possible, with encouraging prospects. At the 200 ft. level the North drive has been extended to a total distance of 54 ft. on the reef, which is 5 ft. wide and shows fair gold. In the South drive we are now in 37 feet, with the reef 5 feet wide, and of same quality as per last report. We have also taken a stope from the back of the drive, for a distance of 20 feet, to make room for timber, 5 pieces having already been placed in position. The total length of the two drives is now 91 feet on the reef, and the workings and reef are all that could be desired. At the 150 feet level the winze is down 24 feet on the reef, which shows very good gold throughout. When this winze is completed, connecting the two levels, we will be in a position to greatly increase our output of stone, and, judging from the appearance of the reef here, with satisfactory results. The rise is now up 23 feet, but there is no change to report since last. We will be cleaning up over 150 tons of stone to-morrow at the battery and expect a yield equal to the last, if not better.

There is very little baling of water required now, just enough to keep the engine dam going. Machinery, &c., is in first class order.

p. pro JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON
C. J. WILLMOTT.

RAUB GOLD.

The following is the Mining Manager's report for the four weeks ending 6th May, 1897:—

Raub Hole Section.—In the No. 2 level the main drive going south is now in over 400 ft. from cross-cut. We have not succeeded in cutting the main ore chute in this level, although far beyond where I expected to do so. We have got through the break, and have a small lode formation in the face of the drive, but it carries no gold. It is evident that the cross-course has either thrown the chute of ore further south or cut it off: further exploration can alone determine this. I intend to continue this drive a little further, and if I do not cut the ore chute will stop it until the stopes are up to the face.

In the stopes coming in over this level from the No. 2 winze the lode in the leading stope is 8 in. wide and shows a little gold in the second stope. The lode is about 12 in. wide, and shows better ore. This stope is getting fairly into the ore body, and will improve as we get further into it. From this up to the intermediate drive the ore is all of high grade.

We are still getting a little gold from the stopes above the intermediate drive, but these stopes are almost worked out.

In the main level going north on the course of the lode there is no change; the ground is black slate and is beginning to make a little water. This drive is now in over 200 ft. from the cross-cut.

There is no change in the cross-cut going west; the ground is still hard black slate, and is making a good deal of water. This drive is now in 207 ft. from the shaft.

Bukit Koman Section: No. 1 Level.—In the face of the main drive going north we are taking about 9 ft. of the lode and leaving the remainder standing. What width it is I cannot say. Further back in the level we are taking it out from 25 ft. to 46 ft. wide, the whole of which is being sent to the mill for crushing. Very good gold can be seen in the ore in breaking. No stoping is being done over the back of this level. In the face of the main level going south the lode is not so solid as it was, and has a good deal of mullock through it. The lode is about 14 ft. wide, and shows very fair gold all through. In the leading stope coming in over this level the lode is solid and well defined, 16 ft. wide, and carries very good gold all through. From the No. 2 air shaft to the face of level is between 400 ft. and 500 ft. long by about 200 ft.; the only work done in this block is taking in the leading stope for the purpose of ventilation. Two stopes are being worked between the No. 1 and No. 2 air shafts. Both of these stopes carry very good gold, the lode being from 5 ft. to 11 ft. wide. The top stope is just up to the bottom of the old native workings, about 75 ft. from the surface; they have only partly worked the lode to this depth, having left about 8 ft. of the lode standing. It has evidently been too hard for them to work with their appliances. In the No. 2 level there is an improvement in both faces.

In the drive going north the lode has widened out to fully 10 ft. and shows fair gold.

In the face going south the mullock on the footwall side of the lode is cutting out, and quartz taking its place. I expect in a few feet more the mullock will have completely cut out; we shall then have a solid lode 12 ft. wide in the face carrying fair gold.

The distance between the two faces is now about 250 ft., showing payable gold the whole distance.

The winze being sunk to connect the No. 1 and 2 levels is now down 34 ft. below the No. 1 level and shows good gold all the way down.

The section has supplied over 90 per cent. of the crushing stuff sent to the mill during the past two months.

Bukit Jalis Section.—The drive going south on the course of the lode is now in 118 feet from the cross-cut. Some very fair prospects have been got in driving this level. The lode is a good deal disturbed and broken and is now about a foot wide in the face. I have stopped this drive for the present and started to cross-cut east and west from the end of the drive, as I think there are other bodies of ore outside what we are driving on. We want to get

deeper here into more settled country, but our pumps are not sufficiently powerful to deal with the water we should meet with. The present work is merely prospecting, to be followed later by more permanent work for the more systematic development of the mine.

Bukit Hitam.—This is a low hill surrounded by swamps, situated halfway between Raub and Bukit Koman, and on the Raub Hole line of country. It has been worked right across the hill from swamp to swamp. The Malays tell some wonderful stories of its richness, but no one knows by whom it was worked. Of course, the stories about it can be taken for what they are worth. I have heard too many Malay stories to take any notice of them. It is evident that gold must have been got here, as all of this work would not be done for nothing. I am sinking a shaft 7 ft. by 4 ft. clear of timber to a depth of 70 ft. or 80 ft. and intend to cross-cut under the old workings to see what there is to be found. The shaft is now down 35 ft. and timbered.

Western Lode.—The cross-cut at No. 3 level is in 86 ft. from the shaft, nothing having been found beyond 63 ft. I came back and opened out north on the quartz out 17 ft. in from the shaft. 53 ft. has been driven on this, the face of the drive being all in quartz, but no gold can be got in it. I intend to carry this drive in for some distance, as I believe that the gold got in the levels above has dipped north, and by driving in that direction we shall come on it.

Battery.—This has been kept going full time, except the time lost cleaning up. On Monday last, 4th instant, a general clean-up took place for the months of March and April. 2,420 tons were crushed, yielding 2,555 ozs. 10 dwts. of malted gold, being an average of 1 oz. 1 dwt. 3 grs. per ton of ore. This is the highest yield per ton of ore for a long time, and the record yield of gold got by this Company at a clean-up, on which I beg to congratulate the shareholders.

The yield is nothing exceptional; it is the large quantity of similar grade ore we have in reserve and ready for working.

The following are the quantities crushed from the different mines:—

Bukit Koman	2272 tons
Raub Hole	148 "

2,420 "

Crushing was resumed at 7 p.m. the same night, and has continued steadily since.

WM. BIBBY,
Mining Manager.

The *Singapore Free Press* comments on the above as follows:—

All who have expressed any misgivings as to the last Raub outturn as being just too good, can refer, for complete information, to the mining report published to-day. Nearly eleven tons of the stuff crushed to make that return of 1 oz. 1 dwt. 3 grs. per ton came from the workings at Bukit Koman. Here, as the report shows, the reef is of really unusually large dimension, so much so that the levels which penetrate it horizontally leave a considerable unascertained thickness of gold bearing quartz untouched as they are driven along. In No. 1 Level, North, about 9 ft. wide is taken out to make the level tunnel, but for ventilation's sake near the mouth of the level a thickness from 25 ft. to 46 ft. is taken out, all of which goes to the mill. Going south the lode at this level is from 14 ft. to 16 ft. wide. In the No. 2 level about 100 yds. below No. 1 it averages about 11 ft. wide. Between these two levels perpendicular shafts have to be made here and there, for the sake of ventilation, called winzes. Now all the stone sent to the battery comes merely from the horizontal levels, the ventilation stopes, and the winzes; and nearly all the gold produced in the last crush has therefore come from what is not to be accounted mining but as "dead work," or "opening up," which would have to be done any way even if a reef had to be looked for. And yet all that has been done through a part only of the thickness of the reef. Mining would really imply the stopping out of all of the intermediate wall of reef between a lower and an upper level. Nothing of that is really yet disturbed and it is therefore, as the phrase goes, "in-sight." Properly speaking, all the gold from Bukit Koman has

come not from mining so much as from the mere opening up. And the profits from opening up at one part of the Raub concession are paying for all the prospecting and development work going on at other parts, such as Bukit Jalis and Bukit Hitam. The improvement in the crushing returns, as can be now understood, are purely automatic, being dependent on a general improvement in the quality of the quartz removed in the course of driving the requisite levels and in sinking the connecting winzes. That improvement cannot be predicted, it cannot be told by inspection, for the only real test is the smelting of the amalgam taken from the copper plates in the battery. We think it proper to say so much simply to remove an impression that may exist, namely, that the improved crush has been "arranged for" in any way. The stone had to be removed to give access to the reef and the simple fact is that it has turned out on being crushed to contain rather more gold than was anticipated.

JAPAN BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following are the report and accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1897, presented at the twelfth ordinary general meeting of shareholders, held at the Company's offices at the Brewery, No. 123, Bluff, Yokohama, on Monday, 17th May:—

The Directors have the pleasure to present herewith the accounts of the Company for the business year ended 31st March, 1897.

The sales of the past year again show a large increase, and there are good indications of a further satisfactory development of the Company's business to be expected during the year into which we have now entered.

Large new stables for the increased number of horses required, with quarters for the bettoes, have been completed on Lot No 104-E, and the increased business necessitated a further enlargement of cellars and other buildings which have been executed during the year under review.

The working account for the year shows a profit of \$93,713.99, which, added to the sum of \$8,879.00 brought forward from last year, makes the profit and loss amount to \$103,592.99.

From this sum an interim dividend of 10 per cent., amounting to \$15,000, which was paid in November, 1896, has to be deducted, together with Directors' fees and part bonus to staff paid, amounting to \$2,250.

This leaves a balance of \$86,342.99 for distribution, which the Directors propose to dispose of as follows:—

To payment of a final dividend for the year of 15 per cent.	\$22,500.00
To Reserve fund	50,000.00
To Bonus to staff	4,041.00
To be carried forward to next year	9,801.99

\$86,342.99

Owing to the departure for Europe of Mr. J. Dodds, the Directors have invited Mr. W. R. Bennett to a seat on the Board.

The retiring Directors are Messrs. W. Gordon and J. D. Hutchison, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
JAMES STEWART,
Secretary.

Yokohama, 10th May, 1897.

J. LLEWELLYN AND CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the directors for presentation to the shareholders at the eighth annual meeting to be held at Shanghai on the 25th May:—

In submitting to the shareholders the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1896, the Directors are able to congratulate the shareholders on the satisfactory progress in the business of the Company.

It will be seen from the annexed accounts that the balance standing to the debit of profit and loss account on the 31st December, 1895, viz., \$11,267.94, has been worked off, and this account now stands at \$306.29 to credit, to carry forward to 1897.

The Directors, though regretting their inability to declare a dividend on the year's working, have now every reason to believe that, with the improved position of the Company, at the end of the current year it will be again placed on a dividend paying basis.

The Foochow Road branch has been reopened, and shows improved results.

The drug department has increased, notably the export branch, as is evident by the larger amount of book debts owing to the Company.

The aerated water branch has been well maintained and there is no reason that it should not continue to show a good result.

In consequence of unavoidable change of premises, temporary accommodation has been secured in Thorne's Buildings. The Directors are now keeping a watchful eye on any more suitable position that may become available, and are glad to be able to state that the enforced change has not affected the public support accorded to the business, which continues to be satisfactory.

In compliance with the Articles of Association Dr. Macleod retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election. Mr. F. W. Such has left Shanghai on a short visit home, and during his absence his seat on the Board will be occupied by Mr. H. J. Such.

Mr. Drummond Hay, the auditor, offers himself for re-election.

THE END OF THE PHILIPPINE REBELLION.

GENERAL AMNESTY AND RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

The following proclamation was issued by the Governor-General of the Philippines on the 17th May:—

The province of Cavite is subject to the legitimate authorities; throughout the Philippine territory flies the flag of Spain, never humbled and always victorious. Of the rebellion which sought to efface every trace of culture and which was initiated with most atrocious crimes, there remains only the record of its aberrations and infamies; of its notorious hosts there remain a few bands who without home or rest wander as fugitives to be gradually dispersed or to become gangs of robbers. As the result of the brilliant and rapid campaign waged against the traitors and disloyal there appear in the national history new pages of imperishable glory written in the generous blood of our invincible soldiers.

The nation will celebrate this happy termination of the war coincidentally with the birthday of its August Sovereign, and associating himself with the national jubilee and interpreting the noble sentiments of the Spanish people, King Alfonso XIII., ever clement and magnanimous, deigns to celebrate the triumph with an act which, drying tears and pardoning errors and excesses, will contribute to the work of pacification.

Responding to the purpose of His Majesty and in the exercise of my functions as General-in-Chief of this Army, and of the special and full powers with which I am invested, I hereby decree as follows:—

Article I.—I concede exemption from all punishment, with the sole exceptions mentioned in the following article, to all those who have taken part in the actual rebellion, appearing amongst the armed insurgents or in any other way contributing to the ends of the insurrection.

Article II.—There are excepted from the grace conceded in the preceding article:—

1.—Promoters of the rebellion who have suffered no punishment for the offences in respect of which prosecutions are pending against them.

Those comprised in this category will obtain, according to their antecedents and the importance of the parts they have taken, complete indulgence or simply the commutation of their punishment for the next lower grade in the same scale or for that of banishment or perpetual exile.

2.—Soldiers who, being on active service, have made attempts on the lives of their officers.

Those included in this category will be tried only for the crime of insult to superiors.

the responsibility attaching to them for their participation in the rebellion being waived.

3.—Soldiers who, holding officer's rank, have seduced the troops or taken steps to seduce them to rebel.

Those included in this category will be conceded the commutation of their punishment to that immediately inferior.

4.—Soldiers who have directly co-operated in the rebellion or in the establishment of illegal associations, or have been propagandists of the same.

Those included in this category will have their personal punishment remitted, but the deprivation of office or dismissal from the service to which they may have been sentenced will remain in force.

5.—Public functionaries who may have been punished with disqualification as their principal or accessory punishment.

Those included in this category will have their personal punishment remitted, that of disqualification remaining operative.

Article III.—The individuals included in Article I. will be placed at liberty immediately, the prosecutions which may have been instituted against them being abandoned.

Article IV.—Those included in Article II. who wish to avail of its benefit may obtain the same on soliciting it from my authority and protesting penitence for their past conduct.

With respect to those included in this article, the cases against them will continue to their ordinary termination.

Article V.—Requires the Public Prosecutors to send particulars of pending cases to the office of the Governor-General.

Article VI.—For the enjoyment of the benefits conceded by this order the following conditions are indispensable:—

1.—That the criminals are at the disposition of my authority on this date.

2.—That sentence has not been passed upon them in prosecutions for rebellion.

Article XII.—The benefits conceded by this order will cease to have effect if those favoured relapse into vice.

Manila, 17th May, 1897.

PRIMO DE RIVERA.

Three hundred and thirty-four prisoners in the Manila gaols and three hundred and two in Cavite were liberated the same day.

Another order bearing the same date commuted the sentence of transportation in the cases of a large number of prisoners whose names are set out in the order.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

According to the latest advices received from Manila the rebellion has not been entirely crushed in the province of Cavite. On the 11th inst. the town of Maragondong, the last bulwark of opposition and retreat of the rebels, was taken by the Spanish forces after a very stubborn resistance and desperate fight, the loss on the side of the loyalist troops being far more considerable than the Spanish Government likes to admit. Though the whole of the province of Cavite is now in the hands of the Spaniards the rebels—that is, the real fighting material—have fled into thick jungles and mountains, and are still defying the loyalist troops. The life and soul of this rebellion and the leader of the band still fighting against the Government is a native called Emilio Aguinaldo. This man has earned a unique fame in the Philippines during the rebellion. It is said that he has proved by his strategic movements and the almost impregnable defence works that he threw up that he is a man of rare military genius. He has also proved himself to be a capable governor and administrator during the time that the rebellion has been in active progress, and he is described by many of the captives as noble, brave, generous, and honest, carrying out his word to the last letter. Several of the Spanish who had the misfortune to be captured during the first outburst of the insurrection were treated by him with great humanity and kindness. It is said that while other native commanders and heads have proved themselves to be cowardly and unfit for fight, squeezing from the poor villagers contributions and taxes under the pretence of carrying on the rebellion, but in reality to enrich themselves, and wreaking revenge on their personal enemies, Aguinaldo has shone conspicuous

by his strict impartiality, probity, and justice, punishing severely all those who were found to be the oppressors of the poor and the wrongdoers. But the most wonderful part of this rebellion is the heroic part played and distinction and fame earned by a Chinaman. It is said that Emilio Aguinaldo has for his aide-de-camp a pure Chinaman. His Christian name is José Garcia Pana (Jao Paoco in the Amoy dialect) and he has a strange history. He was employed as foreman of an iron foundry in Barraca, which is a street in the district of Binondo, one of the thickly populated suburbs of Manila. In consequence of some difference with his employer he left the said foundry, and established one of his own in Jaboneros Street of the same district, but he had to close it very soon as he had not enough capital to carry on his enterprise. In the meantime the rebellion broke out in Cavite, and as Pana was married to a native woman who was born and was living in the village of Cavite Viejo, he went over to Cavite to find her, and from that time he remained there in company of Aguinaldo, with whom he was on terms of close friendship long before the rebellion. Pana was placed in charge of the casting of bronze guns, which in this rebellion have played sad havoc with the Spanish army, and he was also made Aguinaldo's aide-de-camp. It is said that Pana is a capital shot and is also very brave, betraying none of the cowardly traits of his race. He has picked out and shot many officers of the loyalist troops on the battlefields, and he was always the last in retreat with Aguinaldo. Such prowess, valour, and coolness shown by an ordinary Chinaman have aroused great surprise and admiration all over the province, which has been the scene of many sanguinary fights for these last eight months.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF MACAO HARBOUR.

The following letter by Captain Clarke on the construction and estimated cost of a tidal barrier at Macao appears in the *Echo Macaense*:—

Sir,—According to my promise I now have the pleasure of forwarding you a few figures as to the dimensions, construction, and cost of the suggested breakwater between Joan Point and Pedra Areca Rock. The calculations as to cost, etc., are based on figures for similar work at the sister colony of Hongkong.

Allowing for average depth of water, say 16 ft. to H.W.S. with 2 ft. above surface=18 ft., and assuming the level of hard bottom to be 18 ft. below the surface of river bed=36 ft., 20 ft. top surface angle of sides 45 deg. or 1 to 1 gives base 92 ft. 92 ft. by $\frac{3}{4}$ = 64 c. yards per foot at \$0.50 contract price. 64 by \$0.50=\$32 per foot, 6,000 ft. at \$192,000.

For the construction of such a barrier it would require 384,000 cubic yards of stone and there can be no doubt that this would be the cheapest system, as there is an unlimited supply right at hand.

I would suggest the work to be done at minimum cost, so that in case of damage by severe typhoon repairs could be executed at once.

Construction—Mark out line of work by piles every 500 ft. or so and deposit granite boulders pierre perdue from junks, allowing material to find its own slope. At end of first typhoon season the outer slope of finished portion to be trimmed by divers in dress to uniform slope of about 45 deg.

The finished work to be from 15 to 20 feet wide on top and the slopes on each side about 45 deg.

Heavy stone not less than 8 feet cube deposited on the eastern face.

In order to offer the least resistance to heavy sea the wall should only be about 2 feet above H.W.S.

Let contract for work finished and to be maintained for one year after date of completion.

Payment to contractors made monthly calculated on number of loads deposited and the quantity of material in each junk. Boats to be measured at stated hours by competent man and 15 per cent. of cost retained till expiration of period of maintenance.

Time of construction would depend upon arrangement; about one year would be long enough to have the work in an effective state.

In asking you to kindly publish the above few suggestions I hope I shall not appear impertinent in taking up a subject somewhat foreign to my profession; but if my few practical remarks will have the effect of directing the attentions of the proper authorities to this simple and inexpensive method of utilizing the natural current to deepen the entrance to the port I shall be more than satisfied.

I have gone to some pains to inquire into the above subject, with the result that this amount of work can be done for this sum of money at Hongkong and I see no reason why it should not be done for the same or even less at Macao. Of course a great deal depends at what depth hard bottom can be found.

At places in Hongkong the stone has sunk 50 feet before striking hard ground.

I think this could all be fairly ascertained before entering on the project.

It is a very easy matter to suggest the construction of a breakwater costing \$1,000,000. But what is the use of doing so when we know the resources of the colony will not admit of such outlay.

We know that such barriers as I suggest have stood in the rivers of China for years. All we require is something to resist the ordinary current, such as a tidal barrier.

Now as to cost. Truly \$200,000 seems a great deal of money to call upon a government to expend; but if it can be proved beyond a doubt by competent authority that such outlay would have the desired effect of deepening the entrance to the port and affording a decent harbour for its shipping, surely it would be money well spent. And it must be remembered that "the longer the delay the greater the struggle."

The natural current is running to waste!

Recent experience proves to me that it is the current from the Broadway of the West River that has deepened the Bugio Channel and with the same current contracted between the Pedra Areca Rock and Barra Point, I am equally bound to believe that its effects would be to deepen the channel off Guia, as also that off the I. M. Customs station at Ma-lao-chow, with results very much to be desired by all who are interested in the trade and prosperity of dear old Macao.—Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM E. CLARKE.

THE HOLDING OF LAND BY FOREIGNERS IN FORMOSA.

The following Regulations with reference to the sale or letting of real estate to foreigners in Formosa have been issued by the Governor-General:—

Art. I.—The sale, granting, transferring, mortgaging or pledging of land to foreigners is not permitted.

Art. II.—Beyond the limits of the space allotted for purposes of mixed residence at the open ports, it shall not be lawful to rent houses or lands to foreigners, or to sell, grant, transfer, mortgage or pledge houses to them. Provided that foreigners in the employ of the Government or of the people may rent houses outside the settlements by permission of the Governor-General.

Art. III.—Persons desiring to lease houses or lands to foreigners within the limits of the foreign settlements, or to sell, grant, transfer, mortgage or pledge houses to them, or, as provided in the last clause of Art. II., to rent houses to them outside the limits of the said settlements, must first report the matter to the local Governor of the district and obtain his permission. The same provision shall apply to ceding to foreigners the power of subletting.

Art. III.—Any violations of Art. III. shall involve a fine of from 2 to 25 yen.—*Japan Mail*.

HONGKONG.

There were 2,295 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 174 were Europeans.

H.M.S. *Undaunted* arrived on Thursday from Trincomalee, where she received a new crew from H.M.S. *Edgar*.

A *Government Gazette Extraordinary* was issued on the 25th May continuing the prohibition of the export of arms from this colony for a further period of six months.

The events during the week have taken place for the most part in the law courts. A writ of *habeas corpus*, a charge of arson, a court-martial, and a granite chipping case have furnished most interesting reading. The court-martial was held on a soldier who, according to an old custom, received a fee for looking after the beer supplied to the garrison, but as the acceptance of fees is contrary to regulations issued in 1896 the prisoner was found guilty, although the regulations do not appear to have been put in force before, or at any rate made known to the men. The Queen's birthday parade at the Happy Valley on Monday provided a fairly interesting sight to hundreds of spectators who journeyed down there very early in the morning.

H.E. Sir William Robinson gave an "at home" at Government House on Monday evening in honour of Her Majesty's birthday.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Green Island Cement Co., Limited, is convened for the 5th June, when special resolutions will be submitted providing for an increase of the capital of the Company.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that the specimen of gold bearing quartz mentioned in the Manager's progress report for April has arrived and is now on view at the office of the Company.

Dr. Clarke, Medical Officer of Health, who went to Macao to make inquiries concerning the plague in that colony, is of opinion that there are only a few sporadic cases of plague each day; eight to ten daily is an outside figure.

The M. M. steamer *Sydney* having had to put back to Shanghai in consequence of an accident to her machinery her place has been taken by the *Yarra*, which conveys this week's homeward mail. The mail in consequence leaves on Sunday instead of Wednesday.

From telegrams published in Indian papers it appears that plague has broken out in Tonkin. Nothing has appeared in reference to this in the Tonkin papers. The news has no doubt reached London through Paris, and is presumably based on official reports.

Senhor Barbosa, formerly director of the Revenue Department of Macao, returned on Saturday, having been appointed Secretary General, and was given an enthusiastic reception. A triumphal arch was erected on the wharf, which was decorated with flags, and the Chinese welcomed him with abundance of crackers.

The Queen's Birthday parade of troops at the Happy Valley on Monday morning was witnessed by a very large portion of the public, notwithstanding the early hour at which it was held. The troops commenced to arrive on the ground just before six o'clock, but owing to some uncertainty that existed as to the exact positions the men should occupy there was considerable delay, the Royal salute and the *feu de joi* not being fired until about 7.30, just about the time when Big Ben was booming the advent of the auspicious day in London; so the delay was not altogether inappropriate. After the salute the whole troops marched past twice, Colonel Elsdale, R.E., receiving the salute in the absence, through indisposition, of His Excellency Major-General Black. There were altogether 1,689 regulars on the field, and they were composed of Royal Artillery, 401; Royal Engineers, 169; West Yorkshire Regiment, 703; Hongkong Regiment, 416. The Hongkong Volunteer Corps also took a prominent part in the parade, there being sufficient men of the Field Battery present to man six guns. The Volunteers assembled at headquarters at 5.30 and did not return until 9.30, when their uniforms were heavily soaked with perspiration. They worked exceptionally hard and well and it will doubtless be a source of gratification to them to know that one of the highest officers in the colony expressed unbounded praise of the appearance they made and of the gallant manner in which they stuck to their most trying duties. It is no small work to pull the guns down to the Happy Valley, then to take them six times up and down the field, and bring them back to headquarters before breakfast. Unfortunately only one member—a gunner—of the Maxim Gun Company, turned up at headquarters. We may say that on Jubilee Day there will be from six to eight hundred sailors on parade as well as an additional two hundred men of the Hongkong Regiment.

Lady Buller leaves Yokohama by the *Empress of Japan* for London via Canada.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 19.5, and for the Chinese community 14.8.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. J. G. T. Buckle has been appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of Councils, with effect from the 1st January last.

Signor Ugo Nervegna has been recognised, provisionally and pending the arrival of the Queen's exequatur, as in charge of the Italian Consulate in this colony.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Sir J. W. Carrington, C.M.G. ... \$25

The Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the Medical Registration Amendment Ordinance, the Law of Partnership Ordinance, and the Probate Ordinance.

The Colonial Secretary has informed the Chamber of Commerce that he has received the following telegram from H.B.M. Consul at Bangkok:—"20th May, 1897. Ships from Hongkong must stop at Kophia and Paknam for medical inspection."

The four Chinamen who created such an ado about being "compelled" to go to Canton under a banishment order issued by the Governor in Council voluntarily elected to go there after the Chief Justice dismissed the motion for their discharge. They were taken on board the Canton steamer the same evening.

After returning from the parade at the Happy Valley on Monday Major Sir John Carrington complimented the Volunteers upon their morning's work and then referred to the early departure of Sergeant Lowrie, who has received the appointment of drill instructor to the Shanghai Volunteers. The Major said that he was sure that every member of the corps would wish Sergeant Lowrie every success in his new appointment.

Among the passengers by the German mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich* on the 25th May was Mr. John Wilkie, chief clerk at the Kowloon Dock. Mr. Wilkie, who has been for the past eleven years in the Dock Company's employ at their different establishments, now goes home accompanied by his wife and children for a well earned holiday. Mr. Wilkie was accompanied for a short distance down the harbour by several members of the Kowloon staff, who enlivened his departure with "Auld Lang Syne."

We hear that a special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Wednesday afternoon. The meeting was not publicly notified in any way and was therefore to all intents and purposes private. This method of securing secrecy amounts to a public scandal. If it is deemed necessary to consider any subject in private a formal resolution to that effect can be passed, but only when the Board has met, whereas at present the matter is virtually decided by the officials on their own responsibility before the Board meets.

Amongst the passengers arrived by the *Heungshan* from Macao on the 25th May was General Fernando de Magalhaes, who has for several years been in command of the Artillery in that city, Senhor A. A. Branco, ex Harbour Master of Macao, and Lieut. Colonel Costa Campos and his wife, who are all proceeding to their native country by the French Mail. Mrs. A. A. Arez, wife of the late Attorney-General of the neighbouring colony, is also proceeding to join her husband, who has been appointed Governor of Cape Verde Islands.

A gunner in the Royal Artillery named Troak has been reported to the police as missing from the colony. It is probable that he has left Hongkong for good. He was wanted by the police on a charge of assaulting Richard Hill, an assistant in the employ of Mr. David Kennedy, at Causeway Bay on the 23rd inst. The assault was an unusually savage one, the victim being kicked on the head and sustaining such severe injuries that he is now detained in the hospital. As an instance of the terrible force of the kicks it may be mentioned that on one occasion the soldier missed Hill's head and kicked a plaster wall, making a hole half to three quarters of an inch in depth.

The maximum temperature last month was 83.2, on the 25th, and the minimum 57.5, on the 19th, the mean for the month being 68.4. The rainfall amounted to 3.24 inches.

Commander Gore-Brown, of H.M.S. *Narcissus*, who has been invalided, left for home on the 19th May by the C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*. As the latter passed the *Narcissus* the rigging of the man-of-war was manned and hearty cheers were given for the departing Commander, the band playing appropriate airs.

There is in Hongkong a washermen's benefit society. Its objects are most laudable and it is maintained by master washermen and working washermen, who, by means of annual subscriptions, ensure a certain allowance to any of their number in case of sickness or want of employment, a dividend in case of death, and the provision of a coffin if necessary. Every year the members have a dinner and so large is the attendance that two of the leading restaurants in Queen's Road have to be engaged. It is on this occasion that the accounts are passed and all settlements finally adjusted and the manager for the year ballotted for. The manager has control of all the subscriptions and the general financial working of the society. This year's manager succeeded in getting about \$300 in hand and at the beginning of November he absconded with this sum to his native village. The police were informed of the heartless conduct of the manager and they communicated with the Consul at Canton, requesting him to make an application to the Chinese authorities for the arrest of the criminal. The result was he was apprehended and on the 18th inst. he was sent under escort to Hongkong. On the 21st May he was taken before Mr. (H. E. Wodehouse and sent to gaol for six months with hard labour.

The Boat-house Sub-Committee of the Victoria Recreation Club, in presenting the report for the past year, "regret to draw attention to the lack of interest taken in rowing, except during the two months immediately preceding the Regatta. It is during the summer and autumn that experience should be gained for the coming winter, so that members may have become efficient before the training commences. The form shown in the last Regatta was scarcely a credit to the Club, and the result was that nearly every race was won by practically the same crew." The Bath-house Sub-committee "have decided to add 12 new temporary bunks, on bamboo piles, to the remaining portion of the bath-house, making in all 21 bunks for the accommodation of bathers, for the coming season. This provision, it is hoped, will prove sufficient until more suitable accommodation can be provided." The Gymnasium Sub-Committee says:—"There is little of interest to report this year. The classes for gymnastics, boxing, and fencing, under the direction of Staff-Instructor Sergeant Cusack, have not been well attended throughout the season. The annual gymnastic competition was held on the 30th and 31st January, 1896, and proved a great success, the form shown being superior to that of previous years." The members of the Club number 409.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In reference to the proposed improvement of the Peiho a private letter of the 11th inst. from Tientsin says:—"I am glad to say that the steamer companies, landrenters, etc., have given up their standpoint of *non possumus*, and it is now pretty certain that we shall have the Peiho put in order."—*N. C. Daily News*.

A collision, fortunately unattended with very serious consequences, occurred at Shanghai on the 18th May. The French gunboat *Comète* had got under way from her moorings off Pootung Point and proceeded up river for the purpose of turning round, and having passed between the French and English mail steamers was trying to square up to head down stream, when she ran into the receiving hulk *Wellington*. The *Comète's* jibboom and head gear were carried away, and a large hole knocked in the *Wellington's* side. When the *Comète* fell clear she drifted for some distance down stream before she could be got under command, and finally proceeded to her former anchorage and re-moored to repair damages.—*N. C. Daily News*.

In a review of a work entitled "Journal d'un Commandant de la Comète (1892-1893)," by Commandant Louis Dartige du Fournet, the *Bangkok Times* says:—The forcing of the passage of the Menam on that famous night of July 13th, 1893, in spite of the assurances given in letters exchanged between the French Legation and the Siamese Foreign Office that nothing would be done, has always been something of a puzzle, we might even say, of a historical enigma, and it is in this book we partly find the solution. In view of "the more conciliatory attitude of the Siamese Court"—as if the Court had ever been anything but conciliatory—a telegram had been sent to the French Minister at Bangkok from the Quai d'Orsay, inviting him to give counter orders to the *Inconstant* and *Comète*, i.e., to enjoin them not to force the river entrance before new orders. The question has always been, how did M. Pavie carry out these instructions, and this we now learn from the Commandant of the *Comète*. His colleague and senior, in command of the *Inconstant*, could not of course receive these counter orders whilst on the high seas; so M. Pavie addressed a letter to him which he enclosed in the mail-bag which was waiting for him at the entrance of the Menam. But now comes the strange part of the story. M. Pavie omitted to point out in a special note that there was such a letter, and thus a letter, as our author says, "On which peace and war depended, passed unobserved in the very voluminous correspondence." The author does not give his own views on this irregular business, and perhaps he is right, for the only persons who had to suffer by this were His Majesty and His Majesty's Government, whilst he and his colleagues easily gained distinction and promotion. The Commander not having received any message and of course not thinking of looking over his correspondence at that moment gave orders to proceed. The rest is history.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 11th May.—The first musters of the new tea crop were offered on the 7th inst. and the first settlements were reported on the 9th inst. The offerings consist for the most part of Keemun kinds, in all about 24,000 half-chests, this being almost the total of the head chops. Some 8,000 half-chests of Ningchow were placed on the market on the 10th, and about 20 samples of the Hankow yield. The major attention was naturally paid to the Keemuns. These teas seem as a whole well made, but are distinctly deficient in "point," while a great many are very thin. Russian buyers are paying these more attention than is usual, as the samples of Ningchows show a great want in appearance, while in cup they are very devoid of character. The teas, however, are all from the inferior districts, the better country kinds not having yet arrived. The few samples of Hankow teas do not give promise of any improvement on last season, and the one or two chops sold appear to have commanded full rates.—*N. C. Daily News*.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	93,274*	16,097

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	25,255	19,039
Shanghai	55,681	55,441
Yokohama	21,019	21,718
	101,955	96,198

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	4,976	19,039
Shanghai	8,914	28,058
Yokohama	22,902	28,058
	36,792	57,166

* In our last issue the total for the season 1896-97 was incorrectly given. The correct total was 6,277,746 lbs. as against 7,811,839 lbs. for the corresponding time in the 1895-96 season.

CAMPOR.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Owing to stocks accumulating prices are declining. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$43.00 to \$43.50. Sales, 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—The market is weak and prices declining. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.21 to 7.24 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.67 to 6.70 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.40 to 4.43 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.26 to 4.29 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.12 to 7.15 "
do. " 2, White... 6.47 to 6.50 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.31 to 4.34 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.20 to 4.22 "
Soochow Sugar Candy 11.00 to 11.05 "
Shekloong " 9.45 to 9.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Sarpedon*, sailed on the 16th May. For London:—10 cases cassia oil, 47 cases blackwoodware, 35 cases cigars, 385 cases shells, 6 cases chinaware, 40 cases baskets, 100 bales waste silk, 100 bales pierced cocoons, 186 cases soy, 173 rolls matting, 305 rolls mats, 8 packages effects and 5 packages sundries. For London or Manchester:—310 bales waste silk. For London or Hamburg:—10 cases bristles. For Glasgow:—32 bales straw baskets. For Hamburg:—20 cases aniseed oil, 100 cases bristles 14 cases effects, 3 cases ginger, 438 bales feathers, 750 rolls matting, 95 rolls mats and 3 packages sundries. For New York:—5 cases bristles.

Per P. & O. steamer *Aden* sailed on the 17th May. For Hamburg:—5 rolls matting. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—35 bales feathers. For Antwerp and/or London:—100 packages bamboo scraps. For Manchester:—60 bales waste silk. For London:—2 cases cigars (from Manila), 140 boxes tea (from Foochow), 15 cases bristles, 40 cases blackwoodware, 5 cases lacqd. ware, 5 cases bambooware, 17 cases China ware, 280 cases preserves, 11 cases private effects, 2 cases birds' feathers, 8 cases cigars, 1,971 bales mats and matting, 202 bales canes, 4 bales split bamboo, 253 bales waste silk, 12 bales rattan, 1 case silks, 1,438 packages fire crackers, and 150 cases preserves, 1,948 boxes tea (40,908 lbs.) and 200 packages tea in transit. For Havre:—185 rolls matting, 12 cases feathers, 6 cases lacquer ware, 14 cases chinaware, 26 cases lythoraphia paper and 13 cases blackwoodware. For Hamburg and/or London:—10 boxes bristles. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—60 packages bamboo scraps. For Trieste:—500 packages tea.

The German steamer *Ceres*, sailed on the 17th May. For Hongkong to Suez:—20 cases cassia. For Beyrouth:—20 cases cassia. For Havre:—200 boxes camphor, 3 bales split bamboo, 48 rolls matting, 40 cases bristles, and 268 packages tea. For Havre option Hamburg:—100 cases camphor and 35 bales canes. For Havre &/or Hamburg option London:—630 cases camphor, 320 bales canes, and 36 cases essential oil. For Havre and/or Hamburg; and/or London and/or Antwerp:—50 cases bristles. For Hamburg:—23 bags beans, 10 cases gum elemi, 3 cases curios, 174 bales feathers, 1 case silk, 1,300 cases camphor, 72 bales galangal, 1,700 cases cassia, 1,000 cases broken cassia, 11 cases gallnuts, 42 cases bristles, 102 packages rattanware, 30 bales rattan shavings, 4 cases ginger, 1 case ginger, 7 cases chinaware, 31 rolls mats, 20 cases palmleaffans, 25 teasticks, 2,251 packages tea, 16 cases gamboge, 5 cases fans, 50 cases star-aniseed, 21 packages sundries, and 223 bales canes. For Hamburg option London:—100 bales galangal, 58 bales feathers, and 20 cases bristles. For Antwerp:—34 bales duckfeathers. For Amsterdam:—1 case bronze ware and 1 box tea. For Lisbon:—3 cases chinaware. For London:—1,048 packages tea, 231 packages canes, 11 cases gallnuts, and 23 cases bristles. For Bremen:—76 rolls mats and 47 packages tea. For Copenhagen:—6 cases blackwoodware and sundries. For Barcelona:—200 packages tea. For Bilbao:—60 packages tea. For New York:—39 bales rattanware.

The steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on the 20th May. For Manchester:—2 cases floss silk.

For London:—4 cases cigars (from Manila), 2,100 packages tea (from Foochow), 124 bales feathers, 337 rolls mats and matting, 6 cases cigars, 10 cases private effects, 8 cases curios, 8 cases preserves, 10 cases silks, 8 cases sundries, and 778 boxes tea=lbs. 16,138 So. O. Pekoe. For France:—159 bales raw silk, and 22 cases silk. For Trieste:—8 bales leaf tobacco. For Gibraltar:—350 packages tea, 1 case curios, and 1 case silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Bengal.—The demand having slackened, a fall in prices has taken place during the interval and closing quotations are \$655 for New Patna, \$715 for Old Patna, and \$650 for New Benares.

Malwa.—There has been scarcely any inquiry for this drug during the past week. Current quotations are as under:—

New (this yr's)	\$760 with all'ance of 5 catties
" (last yr's)	\$780 " 0 to 2 1/2 "
Old (2/5 ")	\$800 " 0 to 2 "
Older	\$820 " 0 to 2 "

Persian.—Business has been very meagre and the market closes weak at \$500 to \$620 for Oily and at \$500 to \$600 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,560 chests.
Old Patna	335 "
New Benares	540 "
Malwa	360 "
Persian	700 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
May 20	665	720	667 1/2	—	760	820
May 21	665	720	667 1/2	—	760	820
May 22	660	720	662 1/2	—	760	820
May 23	660	720	660	—	760	820
May 24	660	720	660	—	760	820
May 25	658 1/2	720	657 1/2	—	760	820
May 26	657 1/2	717 1/2	657 1/2	—	760	820
May 27	655	715	650	—	760	820
May 28	655	715	650	—	760	820

RICE.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—A large demand exists for Japan and supplies being small prices are advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.49 to 2.60
" Round, good quality	2.70 to 2.72
" Long	2.78 to 2.80
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	2.57 to 2.60
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	2.83 to 2.85
" White	2.40 to 2.45
" Fine Cargo	3.50 to 3.54

COALS.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Market steady small sales reported of Japanese and of Australian at \$6.50 to \$7.90 ex ship. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$18.00 to 19.00 ex godown; sellers
Australian ...	7.50 to 8.00 ex ship, sales
Milke Lump ...	— to 7.75 ex ship, nominal
Milke Small ...	— to — none offering
Moji Lump ...	6.50 to 7.50 ex ship, sales

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—30 bales No. 6 at \$79, 1,675 bales No. 10 at \$81 to \$93.50, 560 bales No. 12 at \$84.50 to \$95.50, 405 bales No. 16 at \$92.50 to \$102, 870 bales No. 20 at \$75.50 to \$102. *Grey Shirtings*—600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red 7-Boys at \$2.57 1/2, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.80, 2,000 pieces 10 lbs. Flower Vase at \$3.90, 1,500 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red Fish at \$2.47 1/2, 900 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.90, 800 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Green Peach at \$2.45, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.97 1/2, 500 pieces 11 lbs. Red Flower at \$3.32 1/2. *White Shirtings*—250 pieces Fish No. 9 at \$5.40, 1,000 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.10, 300 pieces No. 2 at \$6.30, 150 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.82 1/2, 250 pieces Fan at \$5.25, 250 pieces Pagoda at \$5.05, 500 pieces No. 2 at \$3.20. *T-Cloths*—750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Feather Brush at \$1.95, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Hunter and Stag C. C. at \$3.00, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican X. M. at \$2.40, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.37 1/2. *Long Hls*—125 pieces Green and Orange at \$7.40.

Metals.—Tin—100 slabs FoongChai at \$35.50.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 25th May.—A fair business, chiefly in mining stock, has been negotiated during the week. Rates have ruled from steady to weak in the general stocks and firm in mining.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghaies have ruled much quieter and only small cash sales have been effected at 18½ per cent. prem., whilst shares at equivalent rates forward cannot find buyers. Nationals have changed hands at \$21½ and more could probably be placed at the rate. Bank of Chinas neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—North Chinas have been done at Tls. 185, Yangtszes at \$154 and \$153½, Traders at \$77½ and a few Unions at \$230 and \$227½. Other stocks under this heading continue neglected and quiet.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have ruled steady with small sales at \$352½. China Fires continue on offer at \$101 without finding buyers, and at time of closing sales are reported at \$100.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao remain quiet with small sales at \$35½ and \$35, closing at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have remained steady at \$54 to \$54½ with but little business. Douglasses have ruled weaker at \$65½ to \$65, without business, sellers ruling the market at time of closing. China Manilas have changed hands in small lots at \$73, and close firm. China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been negotiated to a limited extent at \$142 and \$143 for cash and at much higher than equivalent rates forward, viz., at \$147 for July and August; the market closes firm at \$143. Luzons continue neglected and more or less out of the market.

MINING.—The chief business of the week has been under this heading, to the detriment of that in general stocks. In fact the greater portion of operators appear to be inclined to devote their attention entirely to Mines and to have lost all interest in the sounder but less alluring local enterprises, a feature in our market of late which from an economic point of view is generally considered to be undesirable. Punjoms have again been in fair demand and have been negotiated in fair lots at \$7 to \$7½, closing with buyers at latter rate. Charbonnages have again changed hands at \$100, but shares are still obtainable at that rate. New Balmorals have advanced considerably and have changed hands as high as \$2.60 for preferences and \$2.25 for ordinaries, closing at \$2.60 and \$2.20. Jebebus have improved to \$2.25 with small sales and further buyers. Raubs have continued in steady demand and sales have been effected at \$22, \$22½, \$23, \$23½, \$24, and \$24½, closing with buyers both for cash and forward. The latest report from the mine may be seen in our local papers of the 24th inst. Olivers have continued booming. A's have changed hands at gradually improving rates to \$24, whilst B's have found many buyers up to \$10.25.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—There is but little to report under this heading. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have found small buyers at 244 per cent. prem. Wharves have been out of favour, but at time of closing are enquired for at quotations. Wanchais are enquired for at \$43½ without inducing holders to part.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled much easier with sales at \$78½, and \$78 would in all probability bring out shares. Hotels have found further small buyers at \$41 and \$42. Humphreys and West Points remain unchanged without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands after further fairly large sales at \$39 and \$40 have again declined to \$38. It was decided at the private meeting on the 20th to offer 20,000 new shares to shareholders at 100 per cent. prem. and 10,000 new shares at the same rate to certain other Capitalists who desire to be interested in the Company. With the exception of an improvement in Ropes to \$167½, and a further all round rise in Cotton Mills, there is nothing more to report under this heading.

HONGKONG, 28th May.—No special features in market to report.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	184 ½, prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$21½, sales
Founders Shares...	£1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$9, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$9½
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$144, buyers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	(in liquidation).
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$29½, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$37, sales
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$32, sales & buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$8.10
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$100
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$42, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$110
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$64½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$167½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	244 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$185, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$100, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$77, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$352½, sal. & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 183, sales
Straits	\$20	\$19½, sellers
Union	\$25	\$227½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$78½, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B. ...	\$30	\$16½, buyers
West Point Building	\$40	\$19.75, sal. & buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$47
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$100, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$2.25, sales
New Balmoral	\$1	\$2.10, buyers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$2.50, sal. & buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$25, buyers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$9½, sales & buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$8½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$2
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$24½, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$73, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£2 10s.
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$65, sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$35, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$54, sales & buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$43½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12½, ex div. sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 28th May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.49
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.53
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.02
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	164½
Bank, on demand	165
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	164½
Bank, on demand	165
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	4 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	4 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	9.94
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	50.75

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Ulysses (s.r.), Socotra (s.r.), Kana-gawa Maru (str.), Sunda (str.), Rohilla (str.), Ben-ledi (str.).
For BREMEN.—Elizabeth Rickmers (str.), Ellen Rickmers (str.), Doreathea Rickmers (str.), Preussen (str.).
For VICTORIA.—Victoria (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Peking (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Turbo (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Sikh (str.), Clan Mackenzie.
For AUSTRALIA.—Airlie (str.), Whampoa (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

May—
20, Nanyang, German str., from Moji.
20, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
20, Kaiser Franz Joseph I., Aust. str., from Chefoo.
20, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
20, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
20, Chingtu, British str., from Kobe.
21, Cheang Hye Teng, Brit. str., from Straits.
21, Tokio Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
21, Krim, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
21, Dordogne, French str., from Shanghai.
21, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
21, Glenesk, British str., from London.
21, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
21, Hector, British str., from Liverpool.
21, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Swatow.
21, Bengo, Portuguese g.-bt., from Macao.
22, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
22, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
22, Oscarshol, Norwegian str., from Canton.
22, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
22, Radnorshire, British str., from New York.
22, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
22, Chingping, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Activ, Danish str., from Tamsui.
22, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
22, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
23, Cosmopolit, German str., from Quinhon.
23, Hohenzollern, German str., from Y'hama.
23, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
23, Kintuck, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
23, Tailee, German str., from Saigon.
23, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
23, Phoenix, British sloop, from Manila.
23, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
24, Ellen Rickmers, German str., from Moji.
24, Deucalion, British str., from Sandakan.
24, Kutsang, British str., from Calcutta.
24, Foochow, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Pyrrhus, British str., from Liverpool.
24, Peshawur, British str., from Bombay.
24, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
24, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
24, Nanshan, British str., from Saigon.
24, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
24, Lucy A. Nickels, Amr. ship, from N. York.
24, Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
24, Tancerville, British str., from Sembilang.
24, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
24, Kinbo Maru, Jap. str., from Moercean.
25, Albingia, German str., from Moji.
25, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
25, Gloucester City, British str., from Odessa.
25, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
25, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
25, Namyong, British str., from Straits.
25, Vulcan, Norw. str., from Kutchinotzu.
25, Woosung, British str., from Wuhai.
25, Aladdin, Norwegian str., from Shanghai.
25, Formosa, British str., from London.
26, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
26, Tamarind, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
26, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
26, Clara, German str., from Amoy.
26, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
26, Dagmar, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
26, Krim, Norwegian str., from Canton.
26, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
26, Whampoa, British str., from Chinkiang.
26, Etha Rickmers, Ger. ship, from Cardiff.
27, Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
27, Jacob Christensen, Ger. str., from K'notzu.
27, Undaunted, British cruiser, from S'pore.
27, Elisa, Rickmers, German str., from Moji.
27, P. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
27, Sullberg, German str., from Newchwang.
27, Socotra, British str., from Kobe.
27, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.

28, Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.
 28, Bellona, German str., from Hamburg.
 28, Zaffro, British str., from Manila.
 28, Progress, German str., from N'chwang.
 28, Pronto, German str., from Canton.
 28, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 28, Rosetta, British str., from Bombay.
 28, Benlarig, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 28, Gerda, German str., from Moji.
 28, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
 28, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 28, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.

May—
 20, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., for San Francisco.

20, Fausang, British str., for Victoria.
 20, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
 20, Siam, British str., for Hongay.
 20, Sakura Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 20, Taksang, British str., for Chefoo.
 21, Kansu, British str., for Foochow.
 21, Rainbow, British str., for Yokohama.
 21, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 21, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 21, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 21, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Nanyo Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 21, Omi Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 21, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Taiyuan, British str., for Yokohama.
 21, Thekla, German str., for Yokohama.
 21, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
 22, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 22, Afridi, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Benvorlich, British str., for Nagasaki.
 22, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
 22, Cheang H. Teng, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Cluden, British str., for Moji.
 22, Dordogne, French str., for Saigon.
 22, Krim, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 22, Oscarshol, Norw. str., for Port Vantute.
 22, Rio, German str., for Singapore.
 23, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
 23, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 23, Radnorshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Wongkoi, British str., for Bangkok.
 23, Saids, Austrian warship, for Singapore.
 23, Port Stanley, British 4-m. ship, for Port Angeles.

24, Foochow, British str., for Canton.
 24, Choyasang, British str., for Canton.
 24, Kintuck, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Hector, British str., for Amoy.
 25, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 25, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 25, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
 25, Tokio Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 25, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Activ, Danish str., for Foochow.
 25, Chingping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 25, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 25, Glenesk, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 25, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 25, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25, Nanshan, British str., for Kobe.
 25, Pronto, German str., for Canton.
 25, Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
 25, Tacoma, British str., for Tacoma.
 25, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 26, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
 26, Gloucester City, British str., for Moji.
 26, Bayard, French flagship, for Shanghai.
 26, Ariel, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 26, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 26, Nanyang, German str., for Kobe.
 27, Cosmopolit, German str., for Chefoo.
 27, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 27, Yuensang, British str., for Amoy.
 27, Aladdin, Norw. str., for Singapore.
 27, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
 27, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
 27, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
 27, Namoa, British str., for Coast Ports.
 28, Choyasang, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 28, Formosa, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 28, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
 28, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 28, Progress, German str., for Canton.
 28, Pronto, German str., for Chefoo.
 28, Thales, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
 28, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Hanoi, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Messrs. Aubert and Lucien Carloti.
 Per Haitan, str., from Coast Ports—Mrs. and Master Popoff, Archdeacon, Mrs. and Miss Wolfe, Messrs. Bouley, Looker, Clayton, Petel, Queen, and Hung Hing Cheen.
 Per Chingtu, str., from Kobe, &c., for Hongkong—Messrs. Donald, Nicholson, and Cumming. For Sydney—Messrs. Rowe, Hankey, Melrose, Watson, Johnstone, Horne, and Barlow.
 Per Glenesk, str., from London, &c.—Mr. Walzer.
 Per Caledonien, steamer, from Marseilles for Hongkong—Messrs. Baron and children, Crepier, J. P. Vasco, Mr. and Mrs. C. Barbosa and children. From Colombo—Mr. E. M. Janson. From Singapore—Mr. Haget. From Saigon—Messrs. C. S. Waley. From Marseilles for Shanghai—Messrs. E. O. Reis and L. V. Chrete. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Dickson and child, Messrs. Kiow May Mon and Oh Kan Su. From Marseilles for Kobe—Mr. Antonswitch. From Singapore—Mr. White. From Marseilles for Yokohama—Prince Khilkoff, Mr. and Mrs. Jongowitch, Messrs. Ignatius, Politika, Darey Thompson, Rogers and Mourier. From Singapore—Messrs. E. E. Brockman, Siddon, Mr. and Mrs. Bentinck, and Miss Downes. From Saigon—Mr. and Mrs. Cazeau and 157 Chinese.
 Per Kintuck, str., from Kutchinotzu, &c.—Mr. Cooper.
 Per Choyasang, str., from Shanghai—Mr. W. Sheppard.
 Per Yuensang, str., from Manila—Mr. and Mrs. O. F. de Carrene and 2 children, Messrs. R. P. Duncan and M. Sprungli, Mrs. Josephine Tauffer.
 Per Prinz Heinrich, str., from Shanghai—Mrs. Iburg, Mrs. Michaelson, Messrs. Orange, Solterberk, Donald, Boje, and Sergt. Blecher.
 Per Hohenzollern, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Messrs. A. Westerbuerger, M. Papier, G. McArthur, S. Sato, C. Manashiaya, M. Dibley, K. Kitamura, G. Werle, Mrs. Grunwald, Mrs. C. Boeddinghaus, Mr. C. Saibowsky and family.
 Per Deucalion, steamer, from Sandakan—Mr. and Mrs. Klambery and Mr. G. P. K. Korozky.
 Per Kutsang, steamer, from Calcutta &c.—Messrs. Williams, Perry, Weighlandt Mrs. Winton and 450 Chinese.
 Per Lyeemoon, str., from Shanghai—Messrs. Vogel and Hardenberg.
 Per Formosa, str., for Hongkong from London—Lieut. C. J. Deverell. From Singapore—Mr. C. D. Jones, Capt. A. W. Newbold, Messrs. Chin Chee Yong, Mrs. Tay Chan Eng, mother and child. For Shanghai from London—Mr. E. L. Cockell, Miss J. H. Henderson, Mr. Johnston.
 Per Thales, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Messrs. Brenan and May, Mr. and Mrs. Li Hing.
 Per Phra Chom Klao, str., from Bangkok, &c.—Messrs. Kellett and Marshal.

DEPARTED.

Per Empress of Japan, str., for Shanghai—Baron Bonnet, Messrs. Guillain, Vellner, W. A. Cruickshank, Lum Kuk Yee, and Rev. W. H. Grant. For Nagasaki—Capt. Tillet, Messrs. Woo Sok Wing and Tong Sen Hing. For Kobe—Mrs. McNair and Mr. Hamilton. For Yokohama—Mrs. Ede, Miss Patterson, Messrs. R. Isacke, Paul Colomb, and Rawson-Walker. For Portland—Messrs. Moy Chung Yung and Moy Pek Fat, Mrs. and Miss Moy, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Pond. For San Francisco—Dr. Heald, Messrs. D. S. Devin and Lawrence. For Banff—Mr. A. Coxon. For Burlington—Mr. and Mrs. Seymore. For Toronto—Dr. and Mrs. Thompson. For Havre—Mr. Chaudoir. For Paris—Mr. and Mrs. Ugo Cohen. For London—Comr. Gore-Brown, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. Glendinning, Mr. and Mrs. MacHaffie and child, Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.N., Lieut. H. J. W. Nevile, R.N., Messrs. E. D. Mallinson, R.N., W. Macbean, Savill, Hill, W. R. C. Moorson, R.N., Surg.-Col. Johnstone. From Shanghai for London—Mr. H. Ashton. From Yokohama for Vancouver—Mrs. A. S. Lewis, Miss Humphreys, Mr. C. B. Humphreys. For London—Lady Buller, Mr. E. Tritton, Mr. and Mrs. Rodger, Mr. H. W. Simons, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Conaghey.
 Per Coremandel, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. L. H. Clayton. For Bombay

—Mr. F. D. Mistry. For Brindisi—Mr. and Miss Balbas and 3 children, and Miss E. Loyzaya. For London—Mr. J. T. Cassels, Miss Griffith, Messrs. J. L. Prosser, C. W. Ramadan, Ewing, and E. F. Smith. From Yokohama for Colombo—Messrs. E. W. Leaf, W. George, R. Suttle, J. Callis, W. Miller. For Brindisi—Mr. G. Beesley. For London—Mr. and Mrs. St. John, Miss N. Smith, Messrs. Johnstone and J. H. Steele. From Kobe for Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. Keogh, and Miss Keogh. For London—Messrs. D. Murray, T. McCabe, J. Lightfoot, and R. McDowall. From Nagasaki for Singapore—Mrs. Kasano Umi. From Shanghai for Singapore—Mr. MacKenzie. For Calcutta—Mrs. Addis and 2 children. For London—Miss Leggett, Mr. W. Lloyd Jones, Mr. G. Howell, Mrs. Howell and child.

Per City of Rio de Janeiro, str., for Shanghai—Miss Summers, Mrs. A. D. McTavish, Mr. Henry Humphreys. For Yokohama—Mr. J. R. Berrington. For San Francisco—Mr. W. B. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Noyes, and Mr. R. J. Wood. For London—Mr. R. J. Saubelle.

Per Verona, str., from Hongkong for Kobe—Lieut.-Col. E. Hastings. For Yokohama—Mr. T. Rowin, Mrs. Rose Johnson, and Mr. J. Fehr. For Yokohama from London—Mr. Kilby. From Brindisi—Mr. Leonard. From Cairo—Miss G. M. Fisher. From Bombay—Major Lystrop. From Colombo—Capt. and Mrs. Bayley, Messrs. Brunner and Finch. From Singapore—Mr. L. L. Bailey.

Per Taiyuan, str., for Yokohama—Mrs. Bruce Shepherd, Messrs. E. C. Shepherd, H. E. Boucher, and W. Armstrong.

Per Omi Maru, str., from Hongkong for Australia—Hudson's Surprise Party (18), Captain R. J. McIvor, Mrs. Way, Consul Nakagawa, Messrs. Aiba, J. K. Ford, A. L. Aldrich, W. Beale, Mrs. Hoste, and Mrs. D. W. Harring.

Per Esmeralda, str., for Manila—Mr. J. Hellemans.

Per Haitan, str., for Amoy—Mr. H. C. Cloud.

Per Chingtu, str., for Brisbane—Mr. Alex. Hankey. For Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. Arthur Dickinson, Misses Dickinson (3), Mr. S. V. Stead, Misses Affleck (2), Misses McKellar (2), Messrs. McFarlane, D. S. Watson, J. Horne, G. T. Melrose, J. W. Johnston, A. Barlow, O. Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. F. Grey Smith.

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